THE

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WALTER SCOTT, Esq.

Vol. XL.

ROMANCES Vol. XXXI.

ZWICKAU,

PRINTED FOR BROTHERS SCHUMANN.

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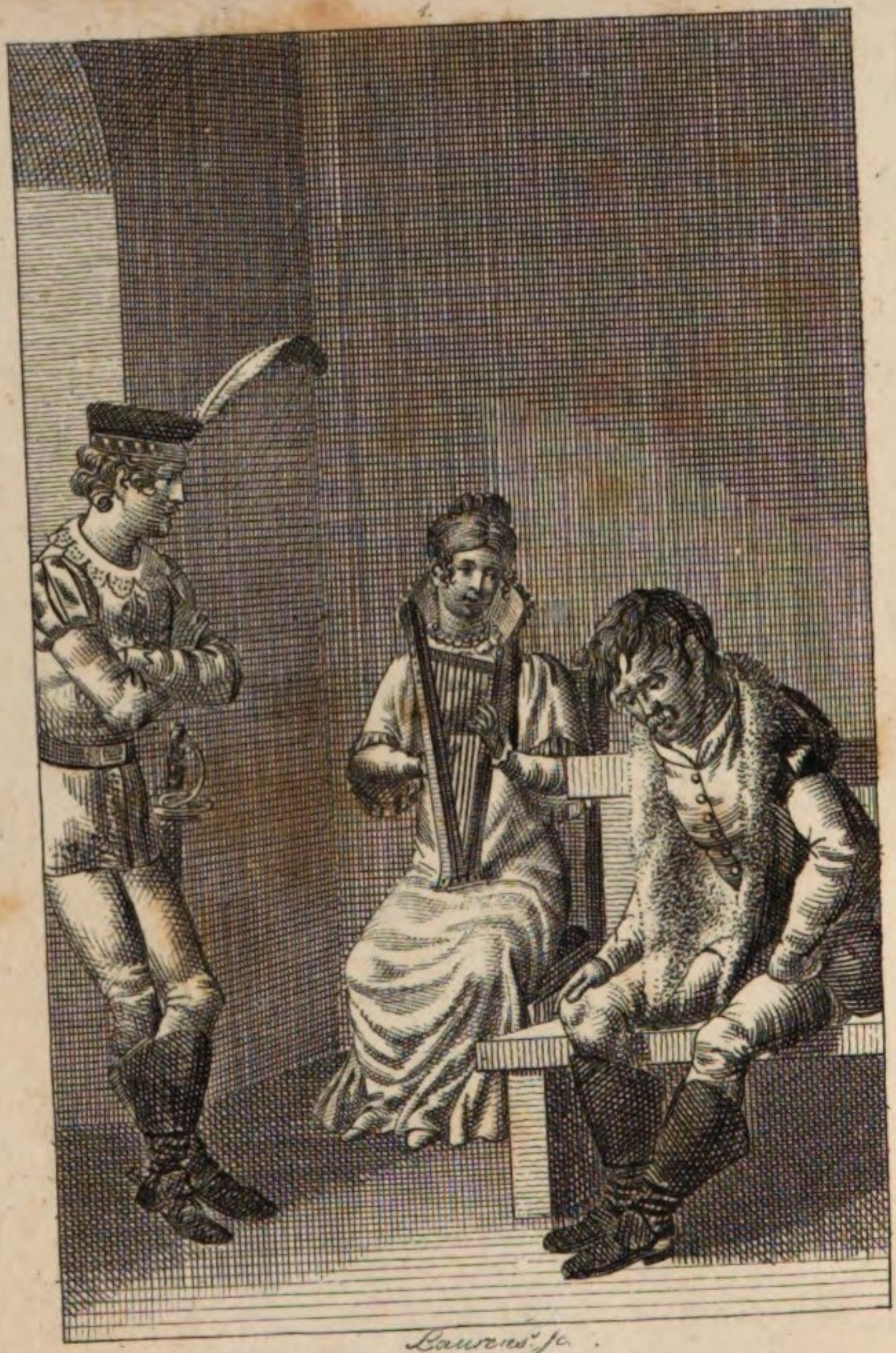

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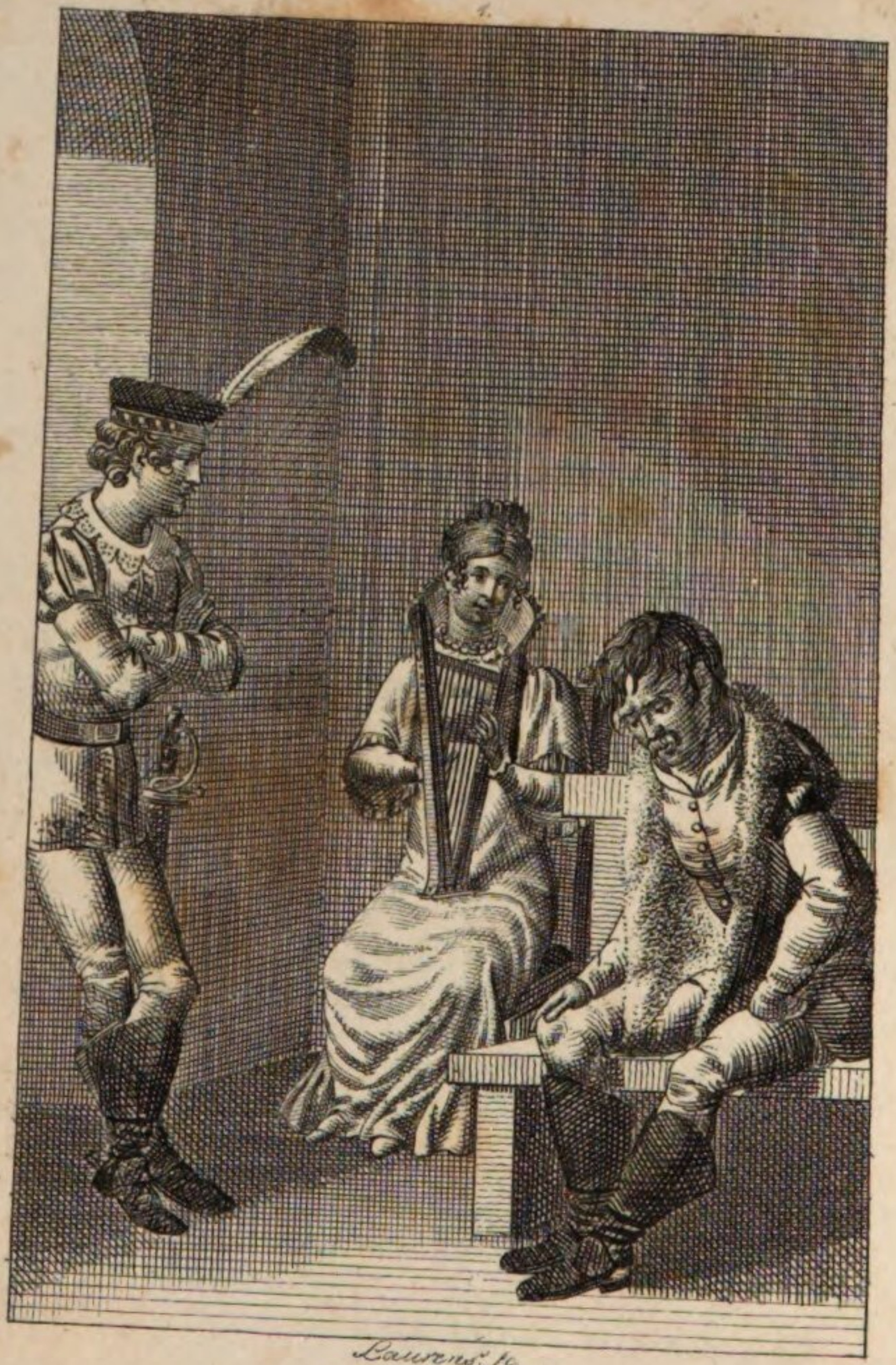

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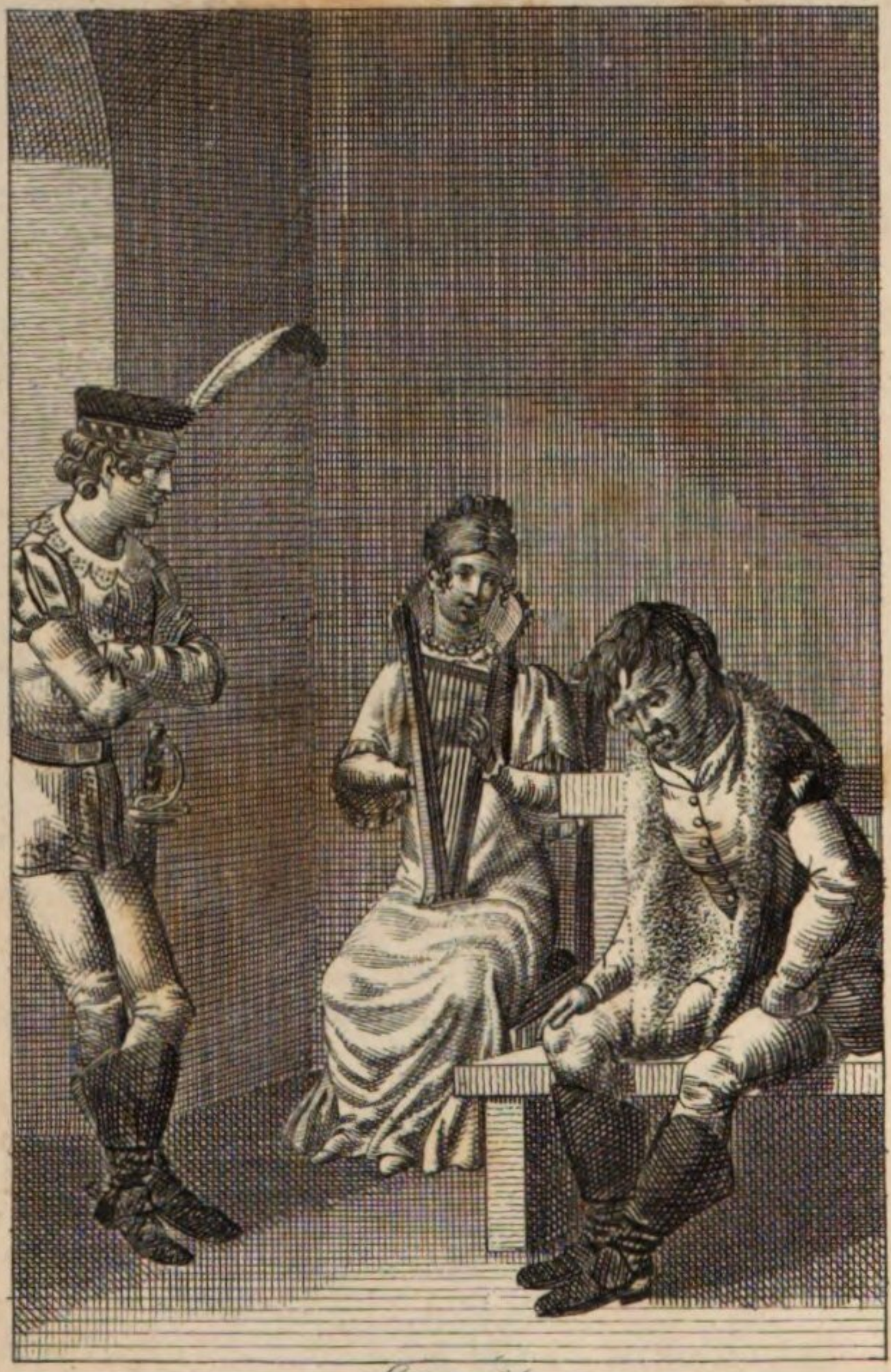

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TALES
OF MY LANDLORD,

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED

BY

JEDEDIAH CLEISHBOTHAM.

Hear, Land o' Cakes and brither Scots,
Frae Maidenkirk to Jonny Groats',
If there's a hole in a' your coats,
I rede ye tent it,
A chiel's amang you takin' notes,
An' faith he'll prent it.

BURNS.

VOL. XV.

LEGEND OF MONTROSE. P. 1.

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OF MY LANDLORD,

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BIBLIOTHECA
REGIA
MONACENSIS.

A

LEGEND OF MONTROSE.

LEGEND OF MONTROSE

INTRODUCTION.

Serjeant More M'Alpin was, during his residence among us, one of the most honoured inhabitants of Ganderscleugh. No one thought of disputing his title to the great leathern chair on the "cosiest side of the chimney," in the common room of the Wallace Arms, on a Saturday evening. No less would our sexton, John Duirward, have held it an unlicensed intrusion, to suffer any one to induct himself into the corner of the left-hand pew nearest to the pulpit, which the Serjeant regularly occupied on Sundays. There he sat, his blue invalid uniform brushed with the most scrupulous accuracy. Two medals of merit displayed at his button-hole, as well as the empty sleeve which should have been occupied by his right arm, were evidence of his hard and honourable service. His weather-beaten features, his grey hair tied in a thin

queue in the military fashion of former days, and the right side of his head a little turned up, the better to catch the sound of the clergyman's voice, were all marks of his profession and infirmities. Beside him sat his sister Janet, a little neat old woman, with a Highland curch and tartan plaid, watching the very looks of her brother, to her the greatest man upon earth, and actively looking out for him, in his silver-clasped Bible, the texts which the minister quoted or expounded.

I believe it was the respect that was universally paid to this worthy veteran by all ranks in Ganderscleugh which induced him to chuse our village for his residence, for such was by no means his original intention.

He had risen to the rank of serjeant-major of artillery, by hard service in various quarters of the world, and was reckoned one of the most tried and trusty men of the Scotch Train. A ball, which shattered his arm in a peninsular campaign, at length procured him an honourable discharge, with an allowance from Chelsea, and a handsome gratuity from the patriotic fund. Moreover, Serjeant More M'Alpin had been prudent as well as valiant; and, from prize-money and savings, had become master of a small sum in the three per cent. consols.

He retired with the purpose of enjoying this

income in the wild Highland glen, in which, when a boy, he had herded black cattle and goats, ere the roll of the drum had made him cock his bonnet an inch higher, and follow its music for nearly forty years. To his recollection, this retired spot was unparalleled in beauty by the richest scenes he had visited in his wanderings. Even the Happy Valley of Rasselas would have sunk into nothing upon the comparison. He came — he revisited the loved scene — it was but a sterile glen, surrounded with rude crags, and traversed by a northern torrent. This was not the worst. The fires had been quenched upon thirty hearths — of the cottage of his fathers he could but distinguish a few rude stones — the language was almost extinguished — the ancient race from which he boasted his descent had found a refuge beyond the Atlantic. One southland farmer, three greyplaided shepherds, and six dogs, now tenanted the whole glen, which in his youth had maintained in content, if not in competence, upwards of two hundred inhabitants.

In the house of the new tenant, Serjeant M'Alpin found, however, an unexpected source of pleasure, and a means of employing his social affections. His sister Janet had fortunately entertained so strong a persuasion that her brother would one day return, that she had re-

fused to accompany her kinsfolks upon their emigration. Nay, she had consented, though not without a feeling of degradation, to take service with the intruding Lowlander, who, though a Saxon, she said, had proved a kind man to her. This unexpected meeting with his sister seemed a cure for all the disappointments which it had been Serjeant More's lot to encounter, although it was not without a reluctant tear that he heard told, as a Highland woman alone could tell it, the story of the expatriation of his kinsmen.

She narrated at length the vain offers they had made of advanced rent, the payment of which must have reduced them to the extremity of poverty, which they were yet contented to face, for permission to live and die on their native soil. Nor did Janet forget the portents which had announced the departure of the Celtic race, and the arrival of the strangers. For two years previous to the emigration, when the night wind howled down the pass of Ballachra, its notes were distinctly modelled to the tune of, "*Ha til mi tulidh*," (we return no more,) with which the emigrants usually bid farewell to their native shores. The uncouth cries of the foreign shepherds, and the barking of their dogs, were often heard in the mist of the hills long before their real arrival. A bard, the last of his race,

had commemorated the expulsion of the natives of the glen in a tune, which brought tears into the aged eyes of the veteran, and of which the first stanza may be thus rendered —

Woe, woe, son of the Lowlander,
Why wilt thou leave thy bonny Border?
Why comest thou hither, disturbing the Highlander,
Wasting the glen that was one in fair order?

What added to Serjeant More M'Alpin's distress upon the occasion was, that the Chief by whom this change had been effected, was, by tradition and common opinion, held to represent the ancient leaders and fathers of the expelled fugitives; and it had hitherto been one of Serjeant More's principal subjects of pride to prove, by genealogical deduction, in what degree of kindred he stood to his personage. A woful change was now wrought in his sentiments towards him.

«I cannot curse him," he said, as he rose and strode through the room, when Janet's narrative was finished — «I will not curse him; he is the descendant and representative of my fathers. But never shall mortal man hear me name his name again." And he kept his word;

for, until his dying day, no man heard him mention his selfish and hard-hearted chieftain.

After giving a day to sad recollections, the hardy spirit which had carried him through so many dangers, manned the Serjeant's bosom against this cruel disappointment. «He would go," he said, «to Canada to his kinsfolks, where they had named a Transatlantic valley after the glen of their fathers. Janet," he said, «should kilt her coats like a leaguer lady; d —— n the distance! it was a flea's leap to the voyages and marches he had made on a slighter occasion."

With this purpose he left the Highlands, and came with his sister as far as Ganderscleugh, on his way to Glasgow, to take a passage to Canada. But winter was now set in, and as he thought it advisable to wait for a spring passage, when the St Lawrence should be open, he settled among us for the few months of his stay in Britain. As we said before, the respectable old man met with a deference and attention from all ranks of society; and when spring returned, he was so satisfied with his quarters, that he did not renew the purpose of his voyage. Janet was afraid of the sea, and he himself felt the infirmities of age and hard service more than he had at first expected. And, as he confessed to the clergyman, and my worthy principal, Mr Cleishbotham, «it was better staying with

kenn'd friends, than going farther, and fareing worse."

He therefore established himself as an inhabitant of Ganderscleugh, to the great satisfaction, as we have already said, of all its inhabitants, to whom he became, in respect of military intelligence, and able commentaries upon the newspapers, gazettes, and bulletins, a very oracle, explanatory of all martial events, past, present, or to come.

It is true, the Serjeant had his inconsistencies. He was a steady jacobite, his father and his four uncles having been out in the forty-five; but he was a no less steady adherent of King George, in whose service he had made his little fortune, and lost three brothers; so that you were in equal danger to displease him, in terming Prince Charles, the Pretender, or by saying any thing derogatory to the dignity of King George. Further, it must not be denied, that when the day of receiving his dividends came round, the serjeant was apt to tarry longer at the Wallace Arms of an evening, than was consistent with strict temperance, or indeed with his worldly interest; for upon these occasions, his compotators sometimes contrived to flatter his partialities by singing jacobite songs, and drinking confusion to Buonaparte. and the health of the Duke of Wellington, until the serjeant was not

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only flattered into paying the whole reckoning, but occasionally induced to lend small sums to his interested companions. After such sprays, as he called them, were over, he seldom failed to thank God, and the Duke of York, who had made it much more difficult for an old soldier to ruin himself by his folly, than had been the case in his younger days.

It was not upon such occasions that I made a part of Serjeant More M'Alpin's society. But often, when my leisure would permit, I used to seek him, on what he called his morning and evening parade, on which, when the weather was fair, he appeared as regularly as if summoned by tuck of drum. His morning walk was beneath the elms in the churchyard; «for death," he said, «had been his next-door neighbour for so many years, that he had no apology for dropping the acquaintance." His evening promenade was on the bleaching green, by the river side, where he was sometimes to be seen on an open bench, with spectacles on nose, conning over the newspapers to a circle of village politicians, explaining military terms, and aiding the comprehension of his hearers by lines drawn on the ground with the end of his rattan. On other occasions, he was surrounded by a bevy of schoolboys, whom he sometimes drilled to the manual, and sometimes, with less approbation on

the part of their parents, instructed in the mystery of artificial fire-works; for in the case of public rejoicings, the serjeant was pyrotechnist (ast he Encyclopedia calls it) to the village of Ganderscleugh.

It was in his morning walk that I most frequently met with the veteran. And I can hardly yet look upon the village footpath, overshadowed by the row of lofty elms, without thinking I see his upright form advancing towards me with measured step, and his cane advanced, ready to pay me the military salute — but he is dead, and sleeps with his faithful Janet, under the third of those very trees, counting from the stile at the west corner of the churchyard.

The delight which I had in Serjeant M'Alpin's conversation, related not only to his own adventures, of which he had encountered many in the course of a wandering life, but also to his recollection of numerous Highland traditions, in which his youth had been instructed by his parents, and of which he would in after life have deemed it a kind of heresy to question the authenticity. Many of these related to the wars of Montrose, in which some of the serjeant's ancestry had, it seems, taken a distinguished part. It has happened, that, although these civil commotions reflect the highest honour upon the Highlanders, being indeed the first occasion

upon which they shewed themselves supperior, or even equal, to their Lowcountry neighbours in military encounters, they have been less commemorated among them than one would have expected, judging from the abundance of traditions which they have preserved upon less interesting subjects. It was, therefore, with great pleasure, that I extracted from my military friend some curious particulars respecting that time; they are mixed with that measure of the wild and wonderful which belong to the periods and the narrator, but which I do not in the least object to the reader treating with disbelief, providing he will be so good as give implicit credit tothe natural events of the story, which, like all those which I have had the honour to put under his notice, actually rest upon a basis of truth.

CHAPTER I.

Such as do build their faith upon
The holy text of pike and gun,
Decide all controversies by
Infallible artillery,
And prove their doctrine orthodox,
By apostolic blows and knocks.

Butler.

It was during the period of that great and bloody Civil War which agitated Britain during the sixteenth century, that our tale has its commencement. Scotland had as yet remained free from the ravages of intestine war, although its inhabitants were much divided in political opinions; and that many of them, tired of the controul of the Estates of Parliament, and disapproving of the bold measure which they had adopted, by sending into England a large army

to the assistance of the Parliament, were determined on their part to embrace the earliest opportunity of declaring for the King, and making such a diversion as should at least compel the recal of General Leslie's army out of England, if it did not recover a great part of Scotland to the King's allegiance. This plan was chiefly adopted by the northern nobility, who had resisted with great obstinacy the adoption of the Solemn League and Covenant, and by many of the chiefs of the Highland clans, who conceived their interest and authority to be connected with royalty, who had besides a decided aversion to the Presbyterian form of religion, and who, finally, were in that half savage state of society, in which war is always more welcome than peace.

Great commotions were generally expected to arise from these concurrent causes; and the trade of incursion and depredation, which the Scotch Highlanders at all times exercised upon the Low Countries, began to assume a more steady, avowed, and systematic form, as part of a general military system.

Those at the head of affairs were not insensible to the peril of the moment, and anxiously made preparations to meet and to repel it. They considered, however, with satisfaction, that no leader or name of consequence had as yet ap-

peared to assemble an army of royalists, or even to direct the efforts of those desultory bands, whom love of plunder, perhaps, as much as political principle, had hurried into measures of hostility. It was generally hoped that the quartering a sufficient number of troops in the low countries adjacent to the Highland line, would have the effect of restraining the mountain chieftains; while the power of various barons in the north, who had espoused the Covenant, as, for example, the Earl Mareschal, the great families of Forbes, Leslie, and Irvine, the Grants, and other Presbyterian clans, might counterbalance and bridle, not only the strength of the Ogilvies and other cavaliers of Angus and Kincardine, but even the potent family of the Gordons, whose extensive authority was only equalled by their extreme dislike to the Presbyterian model.

In the West Highlands the ruling party numbered many enemies; but the power of these disaffected clans was supposed to be broken, and the spirit of their chieftains intimidated, by the predominating influence of the Marquis of Argyle, upon whom the confidence of the Convention of Estates was reposed with the utmost security; and whose power in the Highlands, already exorbitant, had been still farther increased by concessions extorted from the King at the last

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pacification. It was indeed well known that Argyle was a man rather of political enterprise than personal courage, and better calculated to manage an intrigue of state, than to controul the tribes of hostile mountaineers; yet the numbers of his clan, and the spirit of the gallant gentlemen by whom it was led, might, it was supposed, atone for the personal deficiences of their chief; and as the Campbells had already severely humbled several of the neighbouring tribes, it was supposed these would not readily again provoke an encounter with a body so powerful.

Thus having at their own command the whole west and south of Scotland, indisputably the richest part of the kingdom; Fifeshire being in a peculiar manner their own, and possessing many and powerful friends even north of the Forth and Tay, the Scottish Convention of Estates saw no danger sufficient to induce them to alter the line of policy they had adopted, or to recall from the assistance of their brethren of the English Parliament that auxiliary army of twenty thousand men, by means of which accession of strength the King's party had been reduced to the defensive when in full career of triumph and success.

The causes which moved the Convention of Estates at this time to take such an immediate

and active interest in the civil war of England, are detailed in our historians, but may be here shortly recapitulated. They had indeed no new injury or aggression to complain of at the hand of the King, and the peace which had been made between Charles and his subjects of Scotland had been carefully observed; but the Scottish rulers were well aware that this peace had been extorted from the King, as well by the influence of the parliamentary party in England, as by the terror of their own arms. It is true, King Charles had since visited the capital of his ancient kingdom, had assented to the new organization of the church, and had distributed honours and rewards among the leaders of the party which had shewn themselves most hostile to his interests; but it was suspected that distinctions so unwillingly conferred would be resumed so soon as opportunity offered. The low state of the English Parliament was seen with deep apprehension, and it was concluded, that should Charles triumph by force of arms against his insurgent subjects of England, he would not be long in exacting from the Scotch the vengeance which he might suppose due to those who had set the example of taking up arms against him. Such was the policy of the measure which dictated the sending the auxiliary army into England; and it was avowed in a ma-

nifesto explanatory of their reason for giving this timely and important aid to the English Parliament. The English Parliament, they said, had been already friendly to them, and might be so again; whereas the King, although he had so lately established religion among them according to their desires, had given them no ground to confide in his royal declaration, seeing they had found his promises and actions inconsistent with each other. "Our conscience," they concluded, "and God, who is greater than our conscience, beareth us record, that we aim altogether at the glory of God, peace of both nations, and honour of the king, in suppressing and punishing in a legal way, of those who are the troublers of Israel, the firebrands of hell, the Corahs, the Baalams, the Doegs, the Rabshakehs, the Hamans, the Tobiahs, the Sanballats of our time; which done, we are satisfied. Neither have we begun to use a military expedition to England as a mean for compassing those our pious ends, until all other means which we could think upon have failed us; and this alone is left to us, *ultimum et unicum remedium*, the last and only remedy."

Leaving it to casuists to determine whether one contracting party is justified in breaking a solemn treaty, upon the suspicion that in certain future contingencies it might be infringed

by the other, we shall proceed to mention two other circumstances which had at least equal influence with the Scottish rulers and nation, with any doubts which they entertained of the King's good faith.

The first of these was the nature and condition of their army; headed by a poor and discontented nobility, under whom it was officered chiefly by Scottish soldiers of fortune, who had served in the German wars until they had lost almost all distinction of political principle, and even of country, in the adoption of the mercenary faith, that a soldier's principal duty was fidelity to the state or sovereign from whom he received his pay, without respect either to the justice of the quarrel, or to their own connection with either of the contending parties. To men of this stamp, Grotius applies the severe character — *Nullum vitæ genus est improbius, quam eorum, qui sine causæ respectu mercede conducti, militant.* To these mercenary soldiers, as well as to the needy gentry with whom they were mixed in command, and who easily imbibed the same opinions, the success of the late short invasion of England in 1641 was a sufficient reason for renewing so profitable an experiment. The good pay and free quarters of England had made a feeling impression upon the recollection of these military adventurers,

and the prospect of again levying eight hundred and fifty pound a day, came in place of all arguments, whether of state or of morality.

Another cause no less inflamed the minds of the nation at large, than the tempting prospect of the wealth of England animated the soldiery. So much had been written and said on either side concerning the form of church government, that it had become a matter of infinitely more consequence in the eyes of the multitude than the doctrines of that gospel which both churches had embraced. The Prelatists and Presbyterians of the more violent kind became as illiberal as the Papists, and would scarcely allow the possibility of salvation beyond the pale of their respective churches. It was in vain remarked to these zealots, that had the Author of our holy religion considered any peculiar form of church government as essential to salvation, it would have been revealed with the same precision as under the Old Testament dispensation. Both parties continued as violent as if they could have pleaded the distinct commands of Heaven to justify their intolerance. Laud, in the days of his domination, had fired the train, by attempting to impose upon the Scottish people church ceremonies foreign to their habits and opinions. The success with which this had been resisted, and the Presbyterian model substituted in its

place, had endeared the latter to the nation, as the cause in which they had triumphed. The Solemn League and Covenant, adopted with such zeal by the greater part of the kingdom, and by them forced, at the sword's point, upon the others, bore in its bosom, as its principal object, the establishing the doctrine and discipline of the Presbyterian church, and the putting down all error and heresy; and having attained for their own country an establishment of this golden candlestick, the Scots became liberally and fraternally anxious to establish the same in England. This they conceived might be easily attained by lending to the Parliament the effectual assistance of the Scottish forces. The Presbyterians, a numerous and powerful party in the English Parliament, had hitherto taken the lead in opposition to the King; while the Independents and other sectaries, who afterwards, under Cromwell, resumed the power of the sword, and overset the Presbyterian model both in Scotland and England, were as yet contented to lurk under the shelter of the wealthier and more powerful party. The prospect of bringing to a uniformity the kingdoms of England and Scotland in discipline and worship, seemed therefore as fair as it was desirable.

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place, had endeared the latter to the nation, as the cause in which they had triumphed. The Solemn League and Covenant, adopted with such zeal by the greater part of the kingdom, and by them forced, at the sword's point, upon the others, bore in its bosom, as its principal object, the establishing the doctrine and discipline of the Presbyterian church, and the putting down all error and heresy; and having attained for their own country an establishment of this golden candlestick, the Scots became liberally and fraternally anxious to establish the same in England. This they conceived might be easily attained by lending to the Parliament the effectual assistance of the Scottish forces. The Presbyterians, a numerous and powerful party in the English Parliament, had hitherto taken the lead in opposition to the King; while the Independents and other sectaries, who afterwards, under Cromwell, resumed the power of the sword, and overset the Presbyterian model both in Scotland and England, were as yet contented to lurk under the shelter of the wealthier and more powerful party. The prospect of bringing to a uniformity the kingdoms of England and Scotland in discipline and worship, seemed therefore as fair as it was desirable.

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twixt England and Scotland, saw the force which this bait had upon the spirits of those with whom he dealt; and although himself a violent Independent, he contrived at once to gratify and to elude the eager desires of the Presbyterians, by qualifying the obligation to reform the Church of England, as a change to be executed „according to the word of God, and the best reformed churches." Deceived by their own eagerness, themselves entertaining no doubts on the *Jus Divinum* of their own ecclesiastical establishments, and not holding it possible such doubts could be held by others, the Convention of Estates and the Kirk of Scotland conceived, that such expressions necessarily inferred the establishment of Presbytery; nor were they undeceived, until, when their help was no longer needful, the sectaries gave them to understand, that the phrase might be as well applied to Independency, or any other mode of worship, which those who were at the head of affairs at the time might consider as agreeable „to the word of God, and the practice of the reformed churches." Neither were they less astonished to find, that the designs of the English sectaries struck against the monarchial constitution of Britain, it having been their intention to reduce the power of the king, but by no means to abrogate the office. They fared, however, in this

respect, like rash physicians, who commence by over physicking a patient, until he is reduced to a state of weakness, from which cordials are afterwards unable to recover him.

But these events were yet in the womb of futurity. As yet the Scottish Parliament held their engagement with England consistent with justice, prudence, and piety, and their military undertaking seemed to succeed to their very wish. The junction of the Scottish army with those of Fairfax and Manchester, enabled the Parliamentary forces to besiege York, and to fight the desperate action of Long-Marston Moor, in which Prince Rupert and the Marquis of Newcastle were defeated. The Scottish auxiliaries, indeed, had less of the glory of this victory than their countrymen could desire. David Leslie, with their cavalry, fought bravely, and to them, as well as to Cromwell's brigade of Independents, the honour of the day belonged; but the old Earl of Leven, the covenanting general, was driven out of the field by the impetuous charge of Prince Rupert, and was thirty miles distant, in full flight towards Scotland, when he was overtaken by the news that his party had gained a complete victory.

The absence of these troops, upon this crusade for the establishment of Presbyterianism in England, had considerably diminished the power

of the Convention of Estates in Scotland, and had given rise to those agitations among the anti-covenanters, which we have noticed at the beginning of this chapter.

CHAPTER II.

His mother could for him as cradle set
Her husband's rusty iron corselet;
Whose jangling sound could hush her babe to rest,
That never plained of his uneasy nest;
Then did he dream of dreary wars at hand,
And woke, and fought, and won, ere he could stand.

Hall's Satires.

It was towards the close of a summer's evening, during the anxious period which we have commemorated, that a young gentleman of quality, well mounted and armed, and accompanied by two servants, one of whom led a sumpter horse, rode slowly up one of those steep passes, by which the Highlands are accessible from the Lowlands of Perthshire. Their course had lain

for some time along the banks of a lake, whose deep waters reflected the crimson beams of the western sun. The broken path which they pursued with some difficulty, was in some places shaded by the ancient birches and oak-trees, and in others overhung by fragments of huge rock. Elsewhere, the hill, which formed the northern side of this beautiful sheet of water, arose in steep, but less precipitous acclivity, and was arrayed in heath of the darkest purple. In present times, a scene so romantic would have been judged to possess the highest charms for the traveller; but those who journey in days of doubt and dread, pay little attention to picturesque scenery.

The master kept, as often as the wood permitted, abreast of one or both of his domestics, and seemed earnestly to converse with them, probably because the distinctions of rank are readily set aside among those who are made to be sharers of common danger. The dispositions of the leading men who inhabited this wild country, and the probability of their taking part in the political convulsions that were soon expected, were the subjects of their conversation.

They had not advanced above half way up the lake, and the young gentleman was pointing to his attendants the spot where their intended road turned northwards, and leaving the

verge of the loch, ascended a ravine to the right-hand, when they discovered a single horseman coming down the shore, as if to meet them. The gleam of the sun-beams upon his head-piece and corslet showed that he was in armour, and the purpose of the other travellers required, that he should not pass unquestioned. „We must know who he is," said the young gentleman, „and whither he is going." And putting spurs to his horse, he rode forward as fast as the rugged state of the road would permit, followed by his two attendants, until he reached the point where the road along the side of the lake was intersected by that which descended from the ravine, securing thus against the possibility of the stranger eluding them, by turning into the latter road before they came up with him.

The single horseman had mended his pace, when he first observed the three riders advance rapidly towards him; but when he saw them halt and form a front, which completely occupied the path, he checked his horse, and advanced with great deliberation; so that each party had an opportunity to take a full survey of each other. The solitary stranger was mounted upon an able horse, fit for military service, and for the great weight which he had to carry, and his rider occupied his demipique, or war-saddle,

with an air that showed it was his familiar seat. He had a bright burnished head-piece, with a plume of feathers, together with a cuirass, thick enough to resist a musket-ball, with a back-piece of lighter materials. These defensive arms he wore over a buff jerkin, along with a pair of gauntlets or steel-gloves, the tops of which reached up to his elbow, and which, like the rest of his armour, were of bright steel. At the front of his military saddle hung a case of pistols, far beyond the ordinary size, nearly two feet in length, and carrying bullets of twenty to the pound. A buff-belt, with a broad silver buckle, sustained on one side a long straight double-edged broad-sword, with a strong guard, and a blade calculated either to strike or push. On the right side hung a dagger of about eighteen inches in length; a shoulder-belt sustained at his back a musquettoon or blunderbuss, and was crossed by a bandelier containing his charges of ammunition. Thigh-pieces of steel, then termed taslets, met the tops of his huge jack-boots, and completed the equipage of a well-armed trooper of the period.

The appearance of the horseman himself corresponded well with his military equipage, to which he had the air of having been long inured. He was above the middle size, and of strength sufficient to bear with ease the weight

of his weapons, offensive and defensive. His age might be forty and upwards, and his countenance was that of a resolute weather-beaten veteran, who had seen many fields, and brought away in token more than one scar. At the distance of about thirty yards he halted and stood fast, raised himself on his stirrups, as if to reconnoitre and ascertain the purpose of the opposite party, and brought his musquettoon under his right arm, ready for use, if occasion should require it. In every thing but numbers, he had the advantage of those who seemed inclined to interrupt his passage.

The leader of the party was, indeed, well mounted and clad in a buff-coat, richly embroidered, the half-military dress of the period; but his domestics had only coarse jackets of a thick felt, which could scarce be expected to turn the edge of a sword, if wielded by a strong man; and none of them had any weapons, save swords and pistols, without which gentlemen, or their attendants, during those disturbed times, seldom stirred abroad.

When they had stood at gaze for about a minute, the younger gentleman gave the challenge which was then common in the mouth of all strangers who met in such circumstances — "For whom are you?"

«Tell me first," answered the soldier, «for whom are you? — the strongest party should speak first."

«We are for God and King Charles," answered the first speaker — „Now tell your faction, you know our's? »

«I am for God and my standard," answered the single horseman.

„And for which standard?" replied the chief of the other party — «Cavalier or Roundhead, King or Convention?"

«By my troth, sir," answered the soldier, «I would be loth to reply to you with an untruth, as a thing unbecoming a cavalier of fortune and a soldier. But to answer your query with beseeming veracity, it is necessary I should myself have resolved, to whilk of the present divisions of the kingdom I shall ultimately adhere, being a matter whereon my mind is not as yet preceesely ascertained."

«I should have thought," answered the gentleman, «that, when loyalty and religion are at stake, no gentleman or man of honour could be long in chusing his party."

«Truly, sir," replied the trooper, «if ye speak this in the way of vituperation, as meaning to impugn my honour or genteelity, I would blythely put the same to issue, venturing in that quarrel with my single person against you three.

But if you speak it in the way of logical ratiocination, whilk I have studied in my youth at the Mareschal-College of Aberdeen, I am ready to prove to ye *logicé*, that my resolution to defer, for a certain season, the taking upon me either of these quarrels, not only becometh me as a gentleman and a man of honour, but also as a person of sense and prudence, one imbued with humane letters in his early youth, and who, from thenceforward, has followed the wars under the banner of the invincible Gustavus, the Lion of the North, and under many other heroic leaders, both Lutheran and Calvinist, Papist and Arminian."

After exchanging a word or two with his domestics, the younger gentleman replied, „I should be glad, sir, to have some conversation with you upon so interesting a question, and should be proud if I can determine you in favour of the cause I have myself espoused. I ride this evening to a friend's house not three miles distant, whither, if you chuse to accompany me, you shall have good quarters for the night, and free permission to take your own road in the morning, if you then feel no inclination to join with us."

«Whose word am I to take for this?" answered the cautious soldier — «A man must know

his guarantee, or he may fall into an ambuscade."

„I am called," answered the younger stranger, «the Earl of Menteith, and, I trust, you will receive my honour as a sufficient security."

«A worthy nobleman," answered the soldier, «whose parole is not to be doubted." With one motion he replaced his musquettoon at his back, and with another made his military salute to the young nobleman, and continuing to talk as he rode forward to join him — «And, I trust," said he, «my own assurance, that I will be *bon camarado* to your lordship in peace or in peril, during the time we shall abide together, will not be altogether vilipended in these doubtful times, when, as they say, a man's head is safer in a steel-cap than in a marble palace."

«I assure you, sir," said Lord Menteith, «that, to judge from your appearance, I most highly value the advantage of your escort; but, I trust, we shall have no occasion for any exercise of valour, as I expect to conduct you to good and friendly quarters."

«Good quarters, my lord," replied the soldier, «are always acceptable, and are only to be postponed to good pay or good booty, not to mention the honour of a cavalier, or the needful points of commanded duty. And truly, my lord, your noble proffer is not the less wel-

come, in that I knew not preceesely this night where I and my poor companion (patting his horse) were to find lodgments."

«May I be permitted to ask, then," said Lord Menteith, «to whom I have the good fortune to stand quarter-master?"

«Truly, my lord," said the trooper, «my name is Dalgetty — Dugald Dalgetty, Ritt-master Dugald Dalgetty of Drumthwacket, at your honourable service to command. It is a name you may have seen in *Gallo-Belgicus*, the *Swedish Intelligencer*, or, if you read High-Dutch, in the *Fliegendien Merceur* of Leipsic. My father, my lord, having by unthrifty courses reducted a fair patrimony to a nonentity, I had no better shift, when I was eighteen years auld, than to carry the learning whilk I had acquired at the Mareschal-College of Aberdeen, my gentle bluid and designation of Drumthwacket, together with a pair of stalwarth arms, and legs conform, to the German wars, there to push my way as a cavalier of fortune. My lord, my legs and arms stood me in more stead than either my gentle kin or my booklear, and I found myself trailing a pike as a private gentleman under old Sir Ludovick Leslie, where I learned the rules o' service sae tightly, that I will not forget them in a hurry. Sir, I have been made to stand guard eight hours, being from twelve at noon

to eight o'clock of the night, at the palace, armed with back and breast, head-piece and bracelets, being iron to the teeth, in a bitter frost, and the ice was as hard as ever was flint; and all for stopping an instant to speak to my landlady, when I should have gone to roll-call."

«And doubtless, sir," replied Lord Menteith, «you have gone through some hot service, as well as this same cold duty you talk of?"

«Surely, my lord, it doth not become me to speak; but he that hath seen the fields of Leipsic and of Lutzen, may be said to have seen pitched battles. And one who hath witnessed the intaking of Frankfort, and Spanheim, and Nuremberg, and so forth, should know something about leaguers, storms, onslaughts and outfalls."

«But your merit, sir, and experience, were, doubtless, followed by promotion."

«It came slow, my lord, dooms slow," replied Dalgetty; «but as my Scottish countrymen, the fathers of the war, and the raisers of those valorous Scottish regiments that were the dread of Germany, began to fall pretty thick, what with pestilence and what with the sword, why we, their children, succeeded to their inheritance. Sir, I was six years first private gentleman of the company, and three years lance-speisade; disdaining to receive a halbert, as un-

becoming my birth. Wherefore I was ultimately promoted to be a fahndragger, as the High Dutch call it, (which signifies an ancient) in the King's Leif Regiment of Black-Horse, and thereafter I arose to be lieutennant and ritt-master, under that invincible monarch, the bulwark of the Protestant faith, the Lion of the North, the terror of Austria, Gustavus the victorious."

«And yet, if I understand you, Captain Dalgetty, — I think that rank corresponds with your foreign title of ritt-master, ——"

«The same grade preceesely," answered Dalgetty; «ritt-master signifying literally file-leader."

«I was observing," continued Lord Menteith, «that, if I understood you right, you had left the service of this great Prince."

«It was after his death — is was after his death, sir," said Dalgetty, «when I was in no shape bound to continue mine adherence. There are things, my lord, in that service, that cannot but go against the stomach of any cavalier of honour. In especial, albeit the pay be none of the most superabundant, being only about sixty dollars a month to a ritt-master, yet the invincible Gustavus never paid above one-third of that sum, whilk was distributed monthly by way of loan; although, when justly considered, it was, in fact, a borrowing by thatgreat mo-

narch of the additional two-thirds which were due to the soldier. And I have seen some whole regiments of Dutch and Holsteiners mutiny on the field of battle, like base scullions, crying out Gelt, gelt, signifying their desire of pay, instead of falling to blows like our noble Scotch blades, who ever disdained, my lord, postponing of honour to filthy lucre."

«But were not these arrears," said Lord Menteith, «paid to the soldiery at some stated period?"

«My lord," said Dalgetty, «I take it on my conscience, that at no period, and by no possible process, could one creutzer of them ever be recovered. I myself never saw twenty dollars of my own all the time I served the invincible Gustavus, unless it was from the chance of a storm, or victory, or the fetching in some town or doorp, when a cavalier of fortune, who knows the usage of wars, seldom faileth to make some small profit."

«I begin rather to wonder, sir," said Lord Menteith, «that you should have continued so long in the Swedish service, than that you should have ultimately withdrawn from it."

«Neither I should," answered the ritt-master; «but that great leader, captain, and king, the Lion of the North, and the bulwark of the Protestant faith, had a way of winning battles,

taking towns, overrunning countries, and levying contributions, whilk made his service irresistibly delectable to all true-bred cavaliers who follow the noble profession of arms. Simple as I ride here, my lord, I have myself commanded the whole stift of Dunklespiel on the Lower Rhine, occupying the Palsgrave's palace, consuming his choice wines with my comrades, calling in contributions, requisitions, and caduacs, and not failing to lick my fingers, as became a good cook. But truly all this glory hastened to decay, after our great master had been shot with three bullets on the field of Lutzen; wherefore, finding that Fortune had changed sides, that the borrowings and lendings went on as before out of our pay, while the caduacs and casualties were all cut off, I e'en gave up my commission, and took service with Wallenstein in Walter Butler's Irish regiment."

«And may I beg to know of you," said Lord Menteith, apparently interested in the adventures of this soldier of fortune, «how you liked this change of masters?"

«Indifferent well," said the Captain — «very indifferent well. I cannot say that the Emperor paid much better than the great Gustavus. For hard knocks, we had plenty of them. I was often obliged to run my head against my old acquaintances, the Swedish feathers, whilk your

honour must conceive to be double-pointed stakes, shod with iron at each end, and planted before the squad of pikes to prevent an infall of the cavalry. The whilk Swedish feathers, although they look gay to the eye, resembling the shrubs or lesser trees of an forest, as the puissant pikes, arranged in battalia behind them, correspond to the tall pines thereof, yet, nevertheless, are not altogether so soft to encounter as the plumage of a goose. Howbeit, in despite of heavy blows and light pay, a cavalier of fortune may thrive indifferently well in the imperial service, in respect his private casualties are nothing so closely looked to as by the Swede; and so that an officer did his duty on the field, neither Wallenstein nor Pappenheim, nor old Tilly before them, would likely listen to the objurgations of boors or burghers against any commander or soldado by whom they chanced to be somewhat closely shorn. So that an experienced cavalier, knowing how to lay, as our Scottish phrase runs, ‚the head of the sow to the tail of the grice,' might get out of the country the pay whilk he could not obtain from the emperor."

«With a full hand, sir, doubtless, and with interest," said Lord Menteith.

«Indubitably, my lord," answered Dalgetty, composedly; «for it would be doubly disgrace-

ful for any soldado of rank to have his name called in question for any petty delinquency."

«And pray, sir," continued Lord Menteith, «what made you leave so gainful a service?"

«Why, truly, sir," answered the soldier, «an Irish cavalier, called O'Quilligan, being major of our regiment, and I having had words with him the night before, respecting the worth and precedence of our several nations, it pleased him the next day to deliver his orders to me with the point of his battoon advanced and held aloof, instead of declining and trailing the same, as is the fashion from a courteous commanding officer towards his equal in rank, though, it may be, his inferior in military grade. Upon this quarrel, sir, we fought in private rencontre; and as, in the perquisitions which followed, it pleased Walter Butler, our Oberst or colonel, to give the lighter punishment to his countryman and the heavier to me, where-upon ill-stomaching such partiality, I exchanged my commission for one under the Spaniard."

«I hope you found yourself better off by the change?" said Lord Menteith.

«In good sooth," answered the Ritt-master, «I had but little to complain of. The pay was somewhat regular, being furnished by the rich Flemings and Walloons of the Low Country. The quarters were excellent; the good wheaten

loaves of the Flemings were better than the Provant ryebread of the Swede, and Rhenish wine was more plenty with us than ever I saw the black beer of Rostock in Gustavus's camp. Service there was none, duty there was little; and that little we might do, or leave undone, at our pleasure; an excellent reirement for a cavalier somewhat weary of field and leaguer, who had purchased with his blood as much honour as might serve his turn, and was desirous of a little ease and good living."

«And may I ask," said Lord Menteith, «why you, Captain, being, as I suppose, in the situation you describe, retired from the Spanish service also?"

«You are to consider, my lord, that your Spaniard," replied Captain Dalgetty, «is a person altogether unparalleled in his own conceit, wherethrough he maketh not fit account of such foreign cavaliers of valour as are pleased to take service with him. And a galling thing it is to every honourable soldado so be put aside, and postponed, and obliged to yield preference to every puffing signior, who, were it the question which should first mount a breach at push of pike, might be apt to yield willing place to a Scottish cavalier. Moreover, sir, I was pricked in conscience respecting a matter of religion."

«I should not have thought, Captain Dalgetty,

that an old soldier, who had changed service so often, would have been too scrupulous on that head."

«No more I am, my lord," said the Captain, «since I hold it to be the duty of the chaplain of the regiment to settle those matters for me, and every other brave cavalier, inasmuch as he does nothing else that I know for his pay and allowances. But this was a particular case, my lord, *a casus improvisus*, as I may say, in whilk I had no chaplain of my own persuasion to act as my adviser. I found, in short, that although my being a Protestant might be winked at, in respect that I was a man of action, and had more experience than all the Dons in our *tertia* put together, yet, when in garrison, it was expected I should go to mass with the regiment. Now, my lord, as a true Scottish man, and educated at the Mareschal College of Aberdeen, I was bound to uphold the mass to be an act of blinded papistry and utter idolatry, whilk I was altogether unwilling to homologate by my presence. True it is, that I consulted on the point with a worthy countryman of my own, one Father Fatsides, of the Scottish Convent in Wurtzburg" ——

«And I hope," observed Lord Menteith, «you obtained a clear opinion from the ghostly father?"

«As clear as it could be," replied Captain Dalgetty, «considering we had drank six flasks of Rhenish, and about two mutchkins of Kirchen-wasser. Father Fatsides informed me, that, as nearly as he could judge for a heretic like myself, it signified not much whether I went to mass or not, seeing my eternal perdition was signed and sealed at any rate, in respect of my impenitent and obdurate perseverance in my damnable heresy. Being discouraged by this response, I applied to a Dutch pastor of the reformed church, who told me, he thought I might lawfully go to mass, in respect that the prophet permitted Naaman, a mighty man of valour and an honourable cavalier of Syria, to follow his master into the house of Rimmon, a false god, or idol, to whom he had vowed service, and to bow down when the king was leaning upon his hand. But neither was this answer satisfactory to me, both because there was an unco difference between an anointed King of Syria and our Spanish colonel, whom I could have blown away like the peeling of an ingan, and chiefly because I could not find the thing was required of me by any of the articles of war; neither was I proffered any consideration, either in perquisite or pay, for the wrong I might thereby do to my conscience."

«So you again changed your service?" said Lord Menteith.

«In troth did I, my lord; and after trying for a short time two or three other powers, I even took on for a time with their High Mightinesses the States of Holland."

«And how did their service jump with your humour?" again demanded his companion.

«O! my lord," said the soldier in a sort of enthusiasm, «their behaviour on pay-day might be a pattern to all Europe — no borrowings, no lendings, no offsets, no arrears, — all balanced and paid like a banker's book. The quarters, too, are excellent, and the allowances unchallengeable; but then, sir, they are a preceese, scrupulous people, and will allow nothing for peccadilloes. So that if a boor complains of a broken head, or a beer-seller of a broken can, or a daft wench does but squeak loud enough to be heard above her breath, a soldier of honour shall be dragged, not before his own court-martial, who can best judge of and punish his demerits, but before a base mechanical burgo-master, who shall menace him with the rasp-house, the cord, and what not, as if he were one of their own mean, amphibious, twenty-breeched boors. So, not being able to dwell longer among those ungrateful plebeians, who, although unable to defend them-

selves by their proper strength, will nevertheless allow the noble foreign cavalier who engages with them nothing beyond his dry wages, which no honourable spirit will put in competition with a liberal licence and honourable countenance, I resolved to leave the service of the Mynheers. And hearing at this time, to my exceeding satisfaction, that there is something to be doing this summer in my way in this my dear native country, I am come hither, as they say, like a beggar to a bridal, in order to give my loving countrymen the advantage of that experience which I have acquired in foreign parts. So your lordship has an outline of my brief story, excepting those passages of action in the field, in leaguers, storms and onslaughts, whilk would be wearisome to narrate, and might, peradventure, better befit any other tongue than mine own."

CHAPTER III.

For pleas of right let statesmen vex their head,
Battle's my business, and my guerdon bread;
And, with the sworded Switzer, I can say,
The best of causes is the best of pay.

Donne.

The difficulty and narrowness of the road had by this time become such as to interrupt the conversation of the travellers, and Lord Menteith, reining back his horse, held a moment's private conversation with his domestics. The Captain, who now led the van of the party, after about a quarter of a mile's slow and toilsome advance up a broken and rugged ascent, emerged into an upland valley, to which a mountain stream acted as drain, and afforded sufficient room upon its greensward banks for the travellers to pursue their journey in a more social manner.

Lord Menteith accordingly resumed the conversation, which had been interrupted by the difficulties of the way. «I should have thought," said he to Captain Dalgetty, «that a cavalier of your honourable mark, who hath so long followed the valiant King of Sweden, and entertains such a suitable contempt for the base mechanical States of Holland, would not have hesitated to embrace the cause of King Charles, in preference to that of the lowborn, round-headed, canting knaves who are in rebellion against his authority."

«Ye speak reasonably, my lord," said Dalgetty, «and, *cæteris paribus*, I might be induced to see the matter in the same light. But, my lord, there is a southern proverb, — fine words butter no parsnips. I have heard enough since I came here, to satisfy me that a cavalier of honour is free to take any party in this civil embroilment whilk he may find most convenient for his own peculiar. Loyalty is your pass-word, my lord — Liberty, roars another chield from the other side of the strath — the King, shouts one — the Parliament, roars another — Montrose for ever, cries Donald, waving his bonnet — Argyle and Leven, cries a south-country Saunders, vapouring with his hat and feather. Fight for the bishops, says a priest, with his gown and rochet — Stand stout for the kirk,

cries a minister, in a Geneva cap and band. — Good watch-words all — excellent watch-words. Whilk cause is the best I cannot say. But sure am I that I have fought knee-deep in blood many a day for one that was ten degrees worse than the worst of them a'."

„And pray, Captain Dalgetty," said his lordship, „since the pretensions of both parties seem to you so equal, will you please to inform us by what circumstances your preference will be determined?"

„Simply upon two considerations, my lord," answered the soldier. „Being, first, on which side my services would be in most honourable request: — And, secondly, whilk is a corollary of the first, on whilk party they are likely to be most gratefully requited. And, to deal plainly with you, my lord, my opinion at present doth on both points rather incline to the side of the Parliament."

„Your reasons, if you please," said Lord Menteith, „and perhaps I may be able to meet them with others which are more powerful."

„Sir, I shall be amenable to reason," said Captain Dalgetty, „supposing it addresses itself to my honour and my interest. Well, then, my lord, here is a sort of Highland host assembled, or expected to assemble, in these wild hills, in the King's behalf. Now, sir, you know

the nature of our Highlanders. I will not deny them to be a people stout in body and valiant in heart, and courageous enough in their own wild way of fighting, which is as remote from the usages and disciplines of war as ever was that of the ancient Scythians, or of the salvage Indians of America that now is. They havena sae mickle as a German whistle, or a drum, to beat a march, an alarm, a charge, a retreat, a reveillee, or the tattoo, or any other point of war; and their damnable skirlin' pipes, whilk they themselves pretend to understand, are as unintelligible to the ears of any cavaliero accustomed to civilized warfare. So that, were I undertaking to discipline such a breechless mob, it were impossible for me to be understood; and, if I were understood, judge ye, my lord, what chance I had of being obeyed among a band of half salvages, who are accustomed to pay to their own lairds and chiefs, allenarly, that respect and obedience whilk ought to be paid to commissionate officers. If I were teaching them to form battalia by extracting the square root, that is, by forming your square battalion of equal number of men of rank and file, corresponding to the square root of the full number present, what return could I expect for communicating this golden secret of military tactic, except it may be a dirk in my wame, on pla-

cing some M'Alister More, M'Shemei or Capperfae, in the flank or rear, when he claimed to be in the van? — Truly, well saith holy writ, ,if ye cast pearls before swine, they will turn again and rend ye.'"

«I believe, Anderson," said Lord Menteith, looking back to one of his servants, for both were close behind him, «you can assure this gentleman, we shall have more occasion for experienced officers, and be more disposed to profit by their instructions, than he seems to be aware of."

«With your honour's permission," said Anderson, respectfully raising his cap, «when we are joined by the Irish infantry who are expected, and who should be landed before now, we shall have need of good soldiers to discipline our levies."

«And I should like well — very well, to be employed in such service," said Dalgetty; «the Irish are pretty fellows — very pretty fellows — I desire to see none better in the field. I once saw a brigade of Irish, at the intaking of Frankfort upon the Oder, stand to it with sword and pike until they beat off the blue and yellow Swedish brigades, esteemed as stout as any that fought under the immortal Gustavus. And although stout Hepburn, valiant Lumsdale, courageous Monroe, with myself and other cavaliers,

made entry elsewhere at point of pike, yet, had we all met with such opposition, we had returned with great loss and little profit. Wherefore these valiant Irishes, being all put to the sword, as is usual in such cases, did nevertheless gain immortal praise and honour; so that, for their sakes, I have always loved and honoured those of that nation next to my own country of Scotland."

«A command of Irish," said Menteith, «I think I could almost promise you, should you be disposed to embrace the royal cause."

«And yet," said Captain Dalgetty, «my second and greatest difficulty remains behind; for, although I hold it a mean and sordid thing for a soldado to have nothing in his mouth but pay and gelt, like the base cullions, the German lanz-knechts, whom I mentioned before; and although I will maintain it with my sword, that honour is to be preferred before pay, free quarters, and arrears, yet, *contrario*, a soldier's pay being the counterpart of his engagement of service, it becomes a wise and considerate cavalier to consider what remuneration he is to receive for his service, and from what funds it is to be paid. And truly, from what I can see and hear, the Convention are the purse-masters. The Highlanders, indeed, may be kept in hu-

mour, by allowing them to steal cattle; and for the Irishes, your lordship and your noble associates may, according to the practice of the wars in such cases, pay them as seldom or as little as may suit your pleasure or convenience; but the same mode of treatment doth not apply to a cavalier like me, who must keep up his horses, servants, arms, and equipage, and who neither can, nor will, go to warfare upon his own charges."

Anderson, the domestic who had before spoken, now respectfully addressed his master — «I think, my lord," he said, «that, under your lordship's favour, I could say something to remove Captain Dalgetty's second objection also. He asks us where we are to collect our pay? Now, in my poor mind, the resources are as open to us as to the Covenanters. They tax the country according to their pleasure, and dilapidate the estates of the King's friends; now, were we once in the Low Country, with our Highlanders and our Irish at our backs, and our swords in our hands, we can find many a fat traitor whose ill gotten wealth shall fill our military chest and satisfiy our soldiery. Besides, confiscations will fall in thick, and in giving donations of forfeited lands to every adventurous cavalier who joins his standard, the King will at once reward his friends and punish his enemies.

In short, he that joins these Roundhead dogs may get some miserable pittance of pay — he that joins our standard has a chance to be knight, lord, or earl, if luck serve him.

«Have you ever served, my good friend?» said the Captain to the spokesman.

«A little, sir, in these our domestic quarrels,» answered the man, modestly.

„But never in Germany or the Low Countries?" said Dalgetty.

«I never had the honour,» answered Anderson.

«I profess," said Dalgetty, addressing Lord Menteith, «your lordship's servant has a sensible, natural, pretty idea of military matters; somewhat irregular though, and smells a little too much of selling the bear's skin before he has hunted him. I will take the matter, however, into my consideration."

„Do so, Captain," said Lord Menteith; «you will have the night to think of it, for we are now near the house, where I hope to insure you a hospitable reception."

«And that is what will be very welcome," said the Captain, «for I have tasted no food since day-break but a farl of oat cake, which I

divided with my horse. So I have been fain to draw my sword-belt three bores tighter for very extenuation, lest hunger and heavy iron should make the gird slip."

CHAPTER IV.

Once on a time, no matter when,
Some Glunimies met in a glen;
As deft and tight as ever wore
A durk, a targe, and a claymore,
Short hose, and belted plaid or trews,
In Uist, Lochaber, Skye, or Lewes,
Or cover'd hard had with s bonnet;
Had you but known them you would own it.

Meston.

A HILL was now before the travellers, covered with an ancient forest of Scottish firs, the topmost of which, flinging their scathed branches across the western horizon, gleamed ruddy in the setting sun. In the centre of this wood rose the towers, or rather the chimneys, of the house, or castle, as it was called, destined for the end of their journey.

As usual at that period, one or two highridg-

ed narrow buildings, intersecting and crossing each other, formed the corps-delogis. A projecting bartizan or two, with the addition of small turrets at the angles, much resembling pepper boxes, had procured for Darnlinvarach the dignified appellation of a castle. It was surrounded by a low court-yard wall, within which were the usual and necessary offices.

As the travellers approached more nearly, they discovered marks of recent additions to the defences of the place, which had been suggested doubtless by the insecurity of these troublesome times. Additional loop-holes for musketry were struck out in different parts of the building and of its surrounding wall. The windows had been of new carefully secured by stancheons of iron, crossing each other athwart and endlong like the grates of a prison. The door of the court-yard was shut, and it was only after cautious challenge that one of its leaves was opened by two domestics, both strong Highlanders, and both under arms, like Bitias and Pandarus in the Aeneid, ready to defend the entrance if aught hostile had ventured an intrusion.

When the travellers were admitted into the court, they found additional preparations for defence. The walls were scaffolded for the use of fire-arms, and one or two of the small guns,

called sackers and falcons, were mounted at the angles and flanking turrets.

More domestics, both in the Highland and Lowland dress, instantly rushed from the interior of the mansion, and some hastened to take the horses of the strangers, while others waited to marshall them a way into the dwelling-house. But Captain Dalgetty refused the proffered assistance of those who wished to relieve him of the charge of his horse. «It is my custom, my friends, to see Gustavus (for so I have called him after my invincible master,) accommodated myself; we are old friends and fellow travellers, and as I often need the use of his legs, I always lend him in my turn the service of my tongue, to call for whatever he has occasion for;" and accordingly he strode into the stable after his steed without farther apology.

Neither Lord Menteith nor his attendants paid the same attention to their horses, but, leaving them to the proffered care of the servants of the place, walked forward into the house, where a sort of dark vaulted vestibule displayed, among other miscellaneous articles, a huge barrel of twopenny ale, beside which were ranged two or three wooden queichs or bickers, ready, it would appear, for the service of whomsoever thought proper to employ them. Lord Menteith applied himself to the spigot, drank without

ceremony, and then handed the stoup to Anderson, who followed his master's example, but not until he had flung out the drop of ale which remained, and slightly rinsed the wooden cup.

«What the de'il, man," said an old Highland servant belonging to the family, «can she no drink after her ain master without washing the cup and spilling the ale, and be damned to her!"

«I was bred in France," answered Anderson, «where nobody drinks after another out of the same cup, unless it be after a young lady."

«The te'ils in their nicety," said Donald; «and if the ale be gude, fat the waur is't that another man's beard's been in the queich before ye?"

Anderson's companion drank without observing the ceremony which had given Donald so much offence, and both of them followed their master into the low arched stone hall, which was the common rendez-vous of a Highland family. A large fire of peats in the huge chimney at the upper end shed a dim light through the apartment, and was rendered necessary by the damp, by which, even during the summer, the apartment was rendered uncomfortable. Twenty or thirty targets, as many claymores, with dirks, and plaids, and guns, both match-lock and fire-lock, and long bows, and cross-bows,

and Lochaber axes; and coats of plate armour, and steel bonnets, and head pieces, and the more ancient habergeons, or shirts of reticulated mail, with hood and sleeves corresponding to it, all hung in confusion about the walls, and would have formed a month's amusement to a member of a modern antiquarian society. But such things were too familiar to attract much observation on the part of the present spectators.

There was a large clumsy oaken table, which the hasty hospitality of the domestic who had before spoken, immediately spread with milk, butter, goat-milk cheese, a flagon of beer, and a flask of usquebæ, designed for the refreshment of Lord Menteith, while an inferior servant made similar preparations at the bottom of the table for the benefit of his attendants. The space which intervened between them was, according to the manners of the times, sufficient distinction between master and servant, even though the former was, as in the present instance, of high rank. Meanwhile they stood by the fire, the young nobleman under the chimney, and his servants at some little distance.

«What do you think, Anderson," said the former, «of our fellow traveller?"

A stout fellow," replied Anderson, «if all be good that is upcome. I wish we had twenty

such to put our Teagues into some sort of discipline."

«I differ from you, Anderson," said Lord Menteith; «I think this fellow Dalgetty is one of those horse-leeches, whose appetite for blood being only sharpened by what he has sucked in foreign countries, he is now returned to batten upon that of his own. Shame on the pack of these mercenary swords-men! they have made the name of Scot through all Europe equivalent to that of a pitiful mercenary, who knows neither honour nor principle but his month's pay, who transfers his allegiance from standard to standard, at the pleasure of fortune or the best bidder; and to whose insatiable thirst for plunder and warm quarters we owe much of that civil dissension which is now turning our swords against our own bowels. I had scarce patience with the hired gladiator, and yet could hardly help laughing at the extremity of his impudence."

«Your lordship will forgive me," said Anderson, «if I recommend to you in the present circumstances, to conceal at least a part of this generous indignation; we cannot, unfortunately, do our work without the assistance of those who act on baser motives than our own. To use the canting phrase of the saints in the English Parliament, we cannot spare the assistance

of such fellows as our friend the soldado; the sons of Zeruiah are still too many for us."

«I must dissemble, then, as well as I can," said Lord Menteith, «as I have hitherto done, upon your hint. But I wish the fellow at the devil with all my heart."

«Ay, but still you must remember, my lord," resumed Anderson, «that to cure the bite of a scorpion, you must crush another scorpion on the wound — but stop, we shall be overheard."

From a side-door in the hall glided a Highlander into the apartment, whose lofty stature, complete equipment, as well as the feather in his bonnet, and the confidence of his demeanour, announced to be a person of superior rank. He walked slowly up to the table, and made no answer to Lord Menteith, who, addressing him by the name of Allan, asked him how he did.

«Ye manna speak to her e'en now," whispered the old attendant.

The tall Highlander, sinking down upon the open settle next the fire, fixed his eyes upon the red embers and the huge heap of turf, and seemed buried in profound abstraction. His dark eyes and wild and enthusiastic features bore the air of one who, deeply impressed with his own subjects of meditation, pays little attention to exterior objects. An air of gloomy severity, the fruit perhaps of ascetic and solitary habits,

might, in a Lowlander, have been ascribed to religious fanaticism; but by that disease of the mind, then so common both in England and the Low Country of Scotland, the Highlanders of this period were rarely infected. They had, however, their own superstitions, which overclouded the mind with thick-coming fancies, as completely as the puritanism of their neighbours.

«His lordship's honour," said the Highland servant, sideling up to Lord Menteith, and speaking in a very low tone, «his lordship manna speak to Allan even now, for the cloud is upon his mind."

Lord Menteith nodded, and took no farther notice of the reserved mountaineer.

„Said I not," said the latter, suddenly raising his stately person upright, and looking at the domestic — «said I not that four were to come, and here stand but three on the hall floor?"

«In troth did ye say sae, Allan," said the old Highlander, «and here's the fourth man coming clinking in at the yett e'en now from the stable, for he's shelled like a partan wi' airn on back and breast, haunch and shanks. And am I to set her chair up near the Menteith's or down wi' the honest gentlemen at the foot of the table?"

Lord Menteith himself answered the enquiry by pointing to a seat beside his own.

«And here she comes," said Donald, as Captain Dalgetty entered the hall; «and I hope gentlemens will all take bread and cheese, as we say in the glens, until better meat be ready, until the Tiernach comes back frae the hill wi' the southern gentlefolks, and then, Dugald Cook will shew himself wi' his kid an hill venison."

In the mean time, Captain Dalgetty had entered the apartment, and walking up to the seat placed next Lord Menteith, was leaning on the back of it with his arms folded. Anderson and his companion waited at the bottom of the table, in a respectful attitude, until they should receive permission to seat themselves; while three or four Highlanders, under the direction of old Donald, ran hither and thither to bring additional articles of food, or stood still to give attendance upon the guests.

In the midst of these preparations, Allan suddenly started up, and snatching a lamp from the hand of an attendant, held it close to Dalgetty's face, while he perused his features with the most heedful and grave attention.

«By my honour," said Dalgetty, half displeased, as, mysteriously shaking his head, Allan gave up the scrutiny — «I trow that lad and I will ken each other when we meet again."

Meanwhile Allan strode to the bottom of the

table, and having, by the aid of his lamp, subjected Anderson and his companion to the same investigation, stood a moment as if in deep reflection, then touching his forehead, suddenly seized Anderson by the arm, and before he could offer any effectual resistance, half led and half dragged him to the vacant seat at the upper end, and having made a mute intimation that he should there place himself, he hurried the soldado with the same unceremonious precipitation to the bottom of the table. The Captain, exceedingly incensed at this freedom, endeavoured to shake Allan from him with violence; but, powerful as he was, he proved in the struggle inferior to the gigantic mountaineer, who threw him off with such violence, that after reeling a few paces he fell at full length, and the vaulted hall rang with the clash of his armour. When he arose, his first action was to draw his sword and to fly at Allan, who, with folded arms, seemed to await his onset with the most scornful indifference. Lord Menteith and his attendants interposed to preserve peace, while the Highlanders, snatching weapons from the wall, seemed prompt to increase the broil.

«He is mad,» whispered Lord Menteith, „he is perfectly mad; there is no purpose in quarrelling with him.»

«If you are assured that he is *non compos men-*

tis," said Captain Dalgetty, «the whilk his breeding and behaviour seem to testify, the matter must end here, seeing that a madman can neither give an affront, nor render honourable satisfaction. But by my saul, if I had had my provant and a bottle of Rhenish under my belt, I should have stood other ways up to him. And yet it's a pity he should be sae weak in the intellectuals, being a strong proper man of body, fit to handle pike, morgenstern,* or any other military implement whatsoever."

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* This was a sort of club or mace used in the earlier part of the sixteenth century in the defence of breaches and walls. When the Germans insulted a Scotch regiment then beseiged in Trailsund, saying they heard there was a ship come from Denmark to them laden with tobacco pipes, „One of our soldiers," says Colonel Robert Monro, «shewing them over the work a Morgenstern, made of a large stock banded with iron, like the shaft of a halbert, with a round globe at the end with cross iron pikes, saith, ‚here is one of the tobacco pipes, wherewith we will beat out your brains when you intend to storm us.'"

Peace was thus restored, and the party seated themselves agreeably to their former arrangement, with which Allan, who had now returned to his settle by the fire, and seemed again immersed in meditation, did not again interfere. Lord Menteith, addressing the principal servant, hastened to start some theme of conversation which might obliterate all recollection of the fray that had taken place. «The laird is at the hill then, Donald, I understand, and some English strangers with him?"

«At the hill he is, an it like your honour, and two Saxon calabaleros are with him sure enough; and that is Sir Miles Musgrave and Christopher Hall, both from the Cumraig, as I think they call their country."

«Hall and Musgrave?" said Lord Menteith, looking at his attendants, «the very men that we wished to see."

«Troth," said Donald, «an' I wish I had never seen them between the een, for they're come to herry us out o' house and ha'."

«Why, Donald," said Lord Menteith, «you did not use to be so churlish of your beef and ale; southland though they be, they'll scarce eat up all the cattle that's going on the Castle mains."

«Teil care an they did," said Donald, «an that war the warst o't, for we have a wheen

canny trewsmen here that wadna let us want if there was a horned beast atween this and Perth. But this is a warse job — its nae less than a wager."

«A wager!" repeated Lord Menteith, with some surprise.

«Troth," continued Donald, to the full as eager to tell his news as Lord Menteith was curious to hear them, «as your lordship is a friend and kinsman o' the house, an' as ye'll hear aneugh o't in less than an hour, I may as weel tell ye mysel. Ye sall be pleased then to know, that when our Laird was up in England, where he gangs oftener than his friends can wish, he was biding at the house o' this Sir Miles Musgrave, an' there was putten on the table six candlesticks, that they tell me were twice as muckle as the candlesticks in Dumblane kirk, and neither airn, brass, nor tin, but a' solid silver nae less; — up wi their English pride, has sae muckle, and kens sae little how to guide it! Sae they began to jeer the Laird, that he saw nae sic graith in his ain poor country; and the Laird, scorning to hae his country put down without a word for its credit, swore, like a gude Scotsman, that he had mair candlesticks, and better candlesticks, in his ain castle at hame, than were ever lighted in a

hall in Cumberland, an Cumberland be the name o' the country."

That was patriotically said," said Lord Menteith.

«Fary true — but her honour had better hae hauden her tongue, for if ye say ony thing amang the Saxons that's a wee by ordinary, they clink ye down for a wager as fast as a Lowland smith would hammer shoon on a Highland shelty. An' so the Laird behoved either to gae back o' his word, or wager twa hundred merks; and so he e'en took the wager, rather than be shamed wi the like o' them. And now he's like to get it to pay, and I'm thinking that's what makes him sae sweer to come hame at e'en."

«Indeed," said Lord Menteith, „from my idea of your family plate, Donald, your master is certain to lose such a wager."

«Your honour may swear that; an' where he's to get the siller I kenna, although he borrow out o' twenty purses. I advised him to pit the twa Saxon gentlemen and their servants cannily into the pit o' the tower till they gae up the bargain of free gude-will, but the Laird winna hear reason."

Allan here started up, strode forward, and interrupted the conversation, saying to the domestic in a voice like thunder, «And how dared you to give my brother such dishonourable ad-

vice? or how dare you to say he will lose this or any other wager which it is his pleasure to lay?"

«Troth, Allan M'Aulay," answered the old man, «it's no for my fathers son to gainsay what your father's son thinks fit to say, an' so the Laird may no doubt win his wager. A' that I ken against it is, that the teil a candlestick, or ony think like it, is in the house, except the auld airn branches that hae been here since Laird Kenneth's time, and the tin sconces that your father gard be made by auld Willie Winkie the tinkler, mair be token that de'il an unce of siller plate or vessel is about the house at a', forby the lady's auld posset dish, that wants the cover and ane o' the lugs."

«Peace, old man!" said Allan, fiercely; «and do you, gentlemen, if your refection is finished, leave this apartment clear; I must prepare it for the reception of these southern guests."

«Come away," said the domestic, pulling Lord Menteith by the sleeve; «his hour is on him," said he, looking towards Allan, «and he will not be controuled."

They left the hall accordingly, Lord Menteith and the Captain being ushered one way by old Donald, and the two attendants conducted elsewhere by another Highlander. The former had scarcely reached a sort of withdrawing apart-

ment ere they were joined by the lord of the mansion, Angus M'Aulay by name, and his English guests. Great joy was expressed by all parties, for Lord Menteith and the English gentlemen were well known to each other, and on Lord Menteith's introduction, Captain Dalgetty was well received by the Laird. But after the first burst of hospitable joy was over, Lord Menteith could observe that there was a shade of sadness on the brow of his Highland friend.

«You must have heard," said Sir Christopher Hall, «that our fine undertaking in Cumberland is all blown up. The militia would not march into Scotland, and your prick-ear'd Convenanters have been too hard for our friends in the southern shires. And so, understanding there is to be some stirring work here, Musgrave and I, rather than sit idle at home, are come to have a campaign among your kilts and plaids."

«I hope you have brought arms, men, and money with you," said Lord Menteith, smiling.

«Only some dozen or two of troopers, whom we left at the last Lowland village," said Musgrave, «and trouble enough we had to get them so far."

«As for money," said his companion, «we expect a small supply from our friend and host here."

The Laird now, colouring highly, took Men-

teith a little apart, and expressed to him his regret that he had fallen into a foolish blunder.

«I heard of it from Donald,» said Lord Menteith, scarce able to suppress a smile.

«Devil take that old man,» said M'Aulay, «he would tell every thing, were it to cost one one's life; but it's no jesting matter to you neither, my Lord, for I reckon on your friendly and fraternal benevolence, as a near kinsman of our house, to help me out with the money due to these pock-puddings; or else, to be plain wi' ye, the de'il a M'Aulay will there be at the muster, for curse me if I do not turn Covenanter rather than face these fellows without paying them; and, at the best, I shall be ill enough off, getting both the scaith and the scorn.»

«You may suppose, cousin,» said Lord Menteith, «I am not too well equipt just now; but you may be assured I shall endeavour to help you as well as I can, for the sake of old kindred, neighbourhood, and alliance.»

«Thank ye — thank ye — thank ye,» reiterated M'Aulay; «and as they are to spend the money in the King's service, what signifies whether you, they, or I pay it — we are a' one man's bairns, I hope. But you must help me out too, or else I shall be for taking to Andrew Ferrara; for I like not to be treated like a liar or a braggart at my own board-end, when, God knows,

I only meant to support my honour, and that of my family and country."

Donald, as they were speaking, entered, with rather a blither face than he might have been expected to wear, considering the impending fate of his master's purse and credit. «Gentlemens, her dinner is ready, *and her candles are lighted too,*" said Donald, with a strong guttural emphasis on the last clause of his speech.

«What the devil can he mean?" said Musgrave, looking to his countryman.

Lord Menteith put the same question with his eyes to the Laird, which M'Aulay answered by shaking his head.

A short dispute about precedence somewhat delayed their leaving the apartment, Lord Menteith insisted upon yielding up that which belonged to his rank, on consideration of his being in his own country, and of his near connection with the family in which they found themselves. The two English strangers, therefore, were first ushered into the hall, where an unexpected display awaited them. The large oaken table was spread with substantial joints of meat, and seats were placed in order for the guests. Behind every seat stood a gigantic Highlander, completely dressed and armed after the fashion of his country, holding in his right hand his drawn sword, with the point turned

downwards, and in the left, a blazing torch made of the bogpine. This wood, found in the morasses, is so full of turpentine, that, when split and dried, it is frequently used in the Highlands instead of candles. The unexpected and somewhat startling apparition was seen by the red glare of the torches, which displayed the wild features, unusual dress, and glittering arms of those who bore them, while the smoke, eddying up to the roof of the hall, over-canopied them with a volume of vapour. Ere the strangers had recovered from their surprise, Allan stept forward, and pointed with his sheathed broad-sword to the torch-bearers, said, in a deep and stern tone of voice, «Behold, gentlemen cavaliers, the chandeliers of my brother's house, the ancient fashion of our ancient name; not one of these men knows any law but their Chief's command — Would you dare to compare to THEM in value the richest ore that ever was dug out of the mine? How say you, cavaliers? — is your wager won or lost?"

«Lost, lost," said Musgrave gaily — «my own silver candlesticks are all melted and riding on horseback by this time, and I wish the fellows that enlisted were half as trusty as these. Here, sir," he added to the Chief, «is your money; it impairs Hall's finances and mine somewhat, but debts of honour must be settled."

„My father's curse upon my father's son," said Allan, interrupting him, «if he receive from you one penny. It is enough that you claim no right to exact from him what is his own."

Lord Menteith eagerly supported Allan's opinion, and the elder M'Aulay readily joined, declaring the whole to be a fool's business, and not worth speaking more about. The Englishmen, after some courteous opposition, were persuaded to regard the whole as a joke.

„And now, Allan," said the Laird, «please to remove your candles; for, since the Saxon gentlemen have seen them, they will eat their dinner as comfortably by the light of the old tin sconces without scomfishing them with so much smoke."

Accordingly, at a sign from Allan, the living chandeliers, recovering their broadswords, and holding the point erect, marched out of the hall, and left the guests to enjoy their refreshment.

CHAPTER V.

Thareby so fearlesse and so fell he grew,
That his owne syre and maister of his guise,
Did often tremble at his horrid view;
Aud if for dread of hurt would him advise,
The angry beastes not rashly to despise,
Nor too much to provoke; for he would learne
The lyon stoup to him in lowly wise,
(A lesson hard,) and make the libbard sterne
Leave roaring, when in rage he for revenge did earne.

Spenser.

NOTWITHSTANDING the proverbial epicurism of the English, — proverbial, that is to say, in Scotland at the period, — the English visitors made no figure whatever at the entertainment compared with the portentous voracity of Captain Dalgetty, although that gallant soldier had already displayed much steadiness and pertina-

city in his attack upon the refreshment set before them at their entrance, by way of forlorn hope. He spoke to no one during the time of his meal; and it was not until the victuals were nearly withdrawn from the table, that he gratified the rest of the company, who had watched him with some surprise, with an account of the reasons why he ate so very fast and so very long.

«The former quality,» he said, «he had acquired while he filled a place at the bursar's table, at the Mareschal-College of Aberdeen, when," said he, «if you did not move your jaws as fast as a pair of castanets, you were very unlikely to get anything to put between them, And as for the quantity of my food, be it known to this honourable company," continued the Captain, «that it's the duty of every commander of a fortress, on all occasions which offer, to secure as much munition and vivers as their magazines can possibly hold, not knowing when they may have to sustain a siege or a blockade. Upon which principle, gentlemen," said he, „when a cavalier finds that provant is good and abundant, he will, in my estimation, do wisely to victual himself for at least three days, as there is no knowing when he may come by another meal.

The Laird expressed his acquiescence in the

prudence of this principle, and recommended to the veteran to add a tass of brandy and a flagon of claret to the substantial provisions he had already laid in, to which proposal the Captain readily agreed.

When dinner was removed, and the servants had withdrawn, excepting the Laird's page or henchman, who remained in the apartment, to call for or bring whatever was wanted, or, in a word, to answer the purposes of a modern bell-wire, the conversation began to turn upon politics, and the state of the country; and Lord Menteith inquired anxiously and particularly what clans were expected to join the proposed muster of the King's friends.

«That depends much, my lord, on the person who lifts the banner," said the Laird; «for you know we Highlanders are not easily commanded by one of our own Chiefs, or, to say the truth, by any other body. We have heard a rumour, indeed, that Colkitto — that is, young Colkitto, or Alaster M'Donald, is come over the Kyle from Ireland, with a body of the Earl of Antrim's people, and that they had got as far as Ardnamurchan. They might have been here before now, but, I suppose, they wanted to plunder the country as they came along."

«Will Colkitto not serve you for a leader, then?" said Lord Menteith.

«Colkitto!" said Allan M'Aulay, scornfully; «who talks of Colkitto? — There lives but one man whom we will follow, and that is Montrose."

«But Montrose, sir," said Sir Christopher Hall, «has not been heard of since our ineffectual attempt to rise in the North. It is thought he has returned to the King at Oxford for further instructions."

«Returned!" said Allan, with a scornful laugh; «I could tell ye, but it is not worth my while; ye will know soon enough."

«By my honour, Allan," said Lord Menteith, «you will weary out your friends with this intolerable, froward, and sullen humour — But I know the reason" added he, laughing; «you have not seen Annot Lyle to-day."

«Whom did you say I had not seen?" said Allan, sternly.

«Annot Lyle, the fairy queen of song and minstrelsy," said Lord Menteith.

«Would to God I were never to see her again," said Allan, sighing, «on condition the same weird were laid on you!"

«And why on me?" said Lord Menteith, carelessly.

«Because," said Allan, «it is written in your

forehead, that you are to be the ruin of each other. So saying, he rose up and left the room.

«Has he been long in this way?" said Lord Menteith, addressing his brother.

«About three days," said Angus; «the fit is well nigh over, he will be better to-morrow. — But come, gentlemen, don't let the tappit-hen scraugh to be emptied, — the King's health, King Charles's health, and may the covenanting dog that refuses it, go to Heaven by the road of the Grassmarket."

The health was quickly emptied, and as fast succeeded by another, and another, and another, all of a party cast, and enforced in an earnest manner. Captain Dalgetty, however, thought it necessary to enter a protest.

«Gentlemen cavaliers," he said, «I drink these healths, *primo*, both out of respect to this honourable and hospitable roof-tree, and *secundo*, because I hold it not good to be preceese in such matters, *inter pocula*; but I protest, agreeable to the warrandice granted by this honourable lord, that it shall be free to me, notwithstanding my present complaisance, to take service with the Covenanters to-morrow, providing I shall be so minded."

M'Aulay and his English guests stared at this declaration, which would have certainly bred new disturbance, if Lord Menteith had not ta-

ken up the affair, and explained the circumstances and conditions. «I trust," he concluded, «we shall be able to secure Captain Dalgetty's assistance to our own party,"

«And if not," said the Laird, «I protest, as the Captain says, that nothing that has passed this evening, not even his having eaten my bread and salt, and pledged me in brandy, Bourdeaux, or usquebaugh, shall prejudice my cleaving him to the neck-bone."

«You shall be heartily welcome," said the Captain, «providing my sword cannot keep my head, which it has done in worse dangers than your feud is likely to make for me."

Here Lord Menteith again interposed, and the concord of the company being with no small difficulty restored, was cemented by some deep carouses. Lord Menteith, however, contrived to break up the party earlier than was the usage of the Castle, under pretence of fatigue and indisposition. This was somewhat to the disappointment of the valiant Captain, who, among other habits acquired in the Low Countries, had acquired both a disposition to drink, and a capacity to bear, an exorbitant quantity of strong liquors.

Their landlord ushered them in person to a sort of sleeping gallery, in which there was a four-posted bed, with tartan curtains, and a

number of cribs, or long hampers, placed along the wall, three of which, well stuffed with blooming heather, were prepared for the reception of guests.

«I need not tell your lordship," said M'Aulay to Lord Menteith a little apart, «our Highland mode of quartering. Only that, not liking you should sleep in the room alone with this German land-louper, I have caused your servants' beds to be made here in the gallery. By G — d, my lord, these are times when men go to bed with a throat hale and sound as ever swallowed brandy, and before next morning it may be gaping like an oyster-shell."

Lord Menteith thanked him sincerely, saying, «It was just the arrangement he would have requested; for, although he had not the least apprehension of violence from Captain Dalgetty, yet Anderson was a better kind of person, a sort of gentleman, whom he always liked to have near his person."

«I have not seen this Anderson," said M'Aulay; «did you hire him in England?"

«I did so," said Lord Menteith; «you will see the man to-morrow; in the meantime I wish you good night."

His host left the apartment after the evening salutation, and was obout to pay the same compliment to Captain Dalgetty, but observing him

deeply engaged in the discussion of a huge pitcher filled with brandy posset, he thought it a pity to disturb him in so laudable an employment, and took his leave without farther ceremony.

Lord Menteith's two attendants entered the apartment almost immediately after his departure. The good Captain, who was now somewhat encumbered with his good cheer, began to find the undoing of the clasps of his armour a task somewhat difficult, and addressed Anderson in these words, interrupted by a slight hiccup, — «Anderson, my good friend, you may read in Scripture, that he that putteth off his armour should not boast himself like he that putteth it on — I believe that is not the right word of command; but the plain truth of it is, I am like to sleep in my corslet, like many an honest fellow that never waked again, unless you unloose this buckle."

«Undo his armour, Sibbald," said Anderson to the other servant.

«By St Andrew!" said the Captain, turning round in great astonishment, «here's a common fellow — a stipendiary with four pounds a-year and a livery-cloak, thinks himself too good to serve Ritt-master Dugald Dalgetty of Drumthwacket, who has studied humanity at

the Mareschal College of Aberdeen, and served half the princes of Europe!"

«Captain Dalgetty," said Lord Menteith, whose lot it was to stand peacemaker throughout the evening, «please to understand that Anderson waits upon no one but myself; but I will help Sibbald to undo your corslet with much pleasure."

«Too much trouble for you, my lord," said Dalgetty; «and yet it would do you no harm to practice how a handsome harness is put on and put off. I can step in and out of mine like a glove; only to-night, although not *ebrius*, I am, in the classic phrase, *vino ciboque gravatus.*"

By this time he was unshelled, and stood before the fire musing with a face of drunken wisdom on the events of the evening. What seemed chiefly to interest him, was the character of Allan M'Aulay. «To come over the Englishmen so cleverly with his Highland torch-bearers — eight barebreeched Rories for six silver candlesticks! — it was a master-piece — a *tour de passe* — it was perfect legerdemain — and to be a madman after all! — I doubt greatly, my lord, (shaking his head,) that I must allow him, notwithstanding his relationship to your lordship, the privileges of a rational person, and either battoon him sufficiently to ex-

piate the violence offered to my person, or else bring it to a matter of mortal arbitrement, as becometh an insulted cavalier."

«If you care to hear a long story," said Lord Menteith, «at this time of night, I can tell you why the circumstances of Allan's birth account so well for his singular character, as to put such satisfaction entirely out of the question."

«A long story, my lord," said Captain Dalgetty, «is next to a good evening draught and a warm night-cap: the best shoeing-horn for drawing on a sound sleep. And since your lordship is pleased to take the trouble to tell it, I shall rest your patient and obliged auditor."

«Anderson," said Lord Menteith, «and you, Sibbald, are dying to hear, I suppose, of this strange man too; and I believe I must indulge your curiosity, that you may know how to behave to him in time of need. — You had better step to the fire then."

Having thus assembled an audience about him, Lord Menteith sat down upon the edge of the four-posted bed, while Captain Dalgetty, wiping the relicks of the posset from his beard and mustachoes, and repeating the first verse of the Lutheran psalm, *Alle guten Geister loben den Herrn*, etc. rolled himself into one of the places of repose, and, thrusting his shock pate from between the blankets, listened to Lord

Menteith's relation in a most luxurious state, between sleeping and waking.

«The father,» said Lord Menteith, «of the two brothers, Angus and Allan M'Aulay, was a gentleman of consideration and family, being the chief of a Highland clan, of good account, though not numerous; his lady, the mother of these young men, was a gentlewoman of good family, if I may be permitted to say so of one nearly connected with my own. Her brother, an honourable and spirited young man, obtained from James the Sixth a grant of forestry, and other privileges, over a royal chace adjacent to this castle; and, in exercising and defending these rights, he was so unfortunate as to involve himself in a quarrel with some of our Highland freebooters or caterans, of whom I think, Captain Dalgetty, you must have heard."

«And that I have," said the Captain, exerting himself to answer the appeal. «Before I left the Mareschal College of Aberdeen, Dugald Garr was playing the devil in the Garioch, and the Farquharsons on Dee-side, and the Clan Chattan on the Gordons' lands, and the Grants and Camerons in Moray-land. And since that, I have seen the Cravats and Pandours in Pannonia and Transylvania, and the Cossacks from the Polish frontier, and robbers, banditti, and barbarians of all countries besides, so that

I have a distinct idea of your broken Highlandmen."

«The clan," said Lord Menteith, «with whom the maternal uncle of the M'Aulays had been placed in feud, was a small sept of banditti, called, from their houseless state, and their incessantly wandering among the mountains and glens, the Children of the Mist. They are a fierce and hardy people, with all the irritability, and wild and vengeful passions, proper to men who have never known the restraint of civilized society. A party of them lay in wait for the unfortunate Warden of the Forest, surprised him while hunting alone and unattended, and slew him with every circumstance of inventive cruelty. They cut off his head, and resolved, in a bravado, to exhibit it at the castle of his brother-in-law. The laird was absent, and the lady reluctantly received as guests, men against whom, perhaps, she was afraid to shut her gates. Refreshments were placed before the Children of the Mist, who took an opportunity to take the head of their victim from the plaid in which it was wrapped, placed it on the table, put a piece of bread between the lifeless jaws, bidding them do their office now, since many a good meal they had eaten at that table. The lady, who had been absent for some household purpose, entered at this moment, and, upon

beholding her brother's head, fled, like an arrow, out of the house into the woods, uttering shriek upon shriek. The ruffians, satisfied with this savage triumph, withdrew. The terrified menials, after overcoming the alarm to which they had been subjected, sought their unfortunate mistress in every direction, but she was nowhere to be found. The unfortunate husband returned next day, and, with the assistance of his people, undertook a more anxious and distant search, but to equally little purpose. It was believed universally, that, in the ecstacy of her terror, she must either have thrown herself over one of the numerous precipices which overhang the river, or into a deep lake about a mile from the castle. Her loss was the more lamented, as she was six months advanced in her pregnancy; Angus M'Aulay, her eldest son, having been born about eighteen months before. —— But I tire you, Captain Dalgetty, and you seem inclined to sleep."

«By no means," answered the soldier; «I am no whit somnolent; I always hear best with my eyes shut. It is a fashion I learned when I stood centinel."

«And I dare say," said Lord Menteith, aside to Anderson, „the weight of the halbert of the serjeant of the rounds often made him open them."

Being apparently, however, in the humour of story-telling, the young nobleman went on, addressing himself chiefly to his servants, without minding the slumbering veteran.

«Every baron in the country," said he, «now swore revenge for this dreadful crime. They took arms with the relations and brother-in-law of the murdered person, and the Children of the Mist were hunted down, I believe, with as little mercy as they had themselves manifested. Seventeen heads, the bloody trophies of their vengeance, were distributed among the allies, and fed the crows upon the gates of their castles. The survivors sought out more distant wildernesses, to which they retreated."

«To your right hand, counter-march and retreat to your former ground," said Captain Dalgetty; the military phrase having produced the correspondent word of commaud; and then starting up, professed he had been profoundly attentive to every word that had been spoken.

«It is the custom in summer," said Lord Menteith, without minding his apology, «to send the cows to the upland pastures to have the benefit of the grass; and the maids of the village, and of the family, go there to milk them in the morning and evening. While thus employed, the females of this family, to their great terror, perceived that their motions were watehed at a

distance by a pale, thin, meagre figure, bearing a strong resemblance to their deceased mistress, and passing, of course, for her apparition. When some of the boldest resolved to approach this faded form, it fled from them into the woods with a wild shriek. The husband, informed of this circumstance, came up to the glen with some attendants, and took his measures so well as to intercept the retreat of the unfortunate fugitive, and to secure the person of his unfortunate lady, though her intellect proved to be totally deranged. How she supported herself during her wandering in the woods could not be known — some supposed she lived upon roots and wild berries, with which the woods at that season abounded; but the greater part of the vulgar were satisfied that she must have subsisted upon the milk of the wild does, or been nourished by the fairies, or supported in some manner equally marvellous. Her re-appearance was more easily accounted for. She had seen from the thicket the milking of the cows, to superintend which had been her favourite domestic employment, and the habit had prevailed even in her deranged state of mind.

«In due season the unfortunate lady was delivered of a boy, who not only shewed no appearance of having suffered from his mother's calamities, but appeared to be an infant of un-

common health and strength. The unhappy mother, after her confinement, recovered her reason — at least in a great measure, but never her health and spirits. Allan was her only joy. Her attention to him was unremitting; and unquestionably she must have impressed upon his early mind many of those superstitious ideas to which his moody and enthusiastic temper gave so ready a reception. She died when he was about ten years old. Her last words were spoken to him in private; but there is little doubt that they conveyed an injunction of vengeance upon the Children of the Mist, with which he has since amply complied.

«From this moment the habits of Allan M'Aulay were totally changed. He had hitherto been his mother's constant companion, listening to her dreams, and repeating his own, and feeding his imagination, which, probably from the circumstances preceding his birth, was constitutionally deranged, with all the wild and terrible superstitions so common to the mountaineers, to which his unfortunate mother had become much addicted since her brother's death. By living in this manner, the boy had gotten a timid, wild, startled look, loved to seek out solitary places in the woods, and was never so much terrified as by the approach of children of the same age. I remember, although some

years younger, being brought up here by my father upon a visit, nor can I forget the astonishment with which I saw this infant-hermit shun every attempt I made to engage him in the sports natural to our age. I can remember his father bewailing his disposition to mine, and alleging, at the same time, that it was impossible for him to take from his wife the company of the boy, as he seemed to be the only consolation that remained to her in this world, and as the amusement which Allan's society afforded her seemed to prevent the recurrence, at least in its full force, of that fearful malady by which she had been visited. But, after the death of his mother, the habits and manners of the boy seemed at once to change, It is true be remained as thoughtful and serious as before; and long fits of silence and abstraction shewed plainly that his disposition, in this respect, was in no degree altered. But at other times, he sought out the rendez-vouses of the youth of the clan, which he had hitherto seemed anxious to avoid. He took share in all their exercises; and, from his very extraordinary personal strength, soon excelled his brother and other youths, whose age considerably exceeded his own. They who had hitherto held him in contempt, now feared, if they did not love him; and, instead of Allan's being esteemed a dream-

ing, womanish, and feebled-minded boy, those who encountered him in sports or military exercise, now complained that, when heated by the strife, he was too apt to turn game into earnest, and to forget that he was only engaged in a friendly trial of strength. — But I speak to regardless ears," said Lord Menteith, interrupting himself, for the Captain's nose now gave the most indisputable signs that he was fast locked in the arms of oblivion.

«If you mean the ears of that snorting swine, my lord," said Anderson, «they are, indeed, shut to anything that you can say; nevertheless, this place being unfit for more private conference, I hope you will have the goodness to proceed, for Sibbald's benefit and for mine. The history of this poor young fellow has a deep and wild interest in it."

«You must know, then," continued Lord Menteith, «that Allan continued to increase in strength and activity till his fifteenth year, about which time he assumed a total independence of character, and impatience of controul, which much alarmed his surviving parent. He was absent in the woods for whole days and nights, under pretence of hunting, though he did not always bring home game. His father was the more alarmed, because several of the Children of the Mist, encouraged by the increasing trou-

bles of the state, had ventured back to their old haunts, nor did he think it altogether safe to renew any attack upon them. The risk of Allan, in his wanderings, sustaining injury from these vindictive free-booters, was a perpetual source of apprehension.

«I was myself upon a visit to the castle when this matter was brought to a crisis. Allan had been absent since day-break in the woods, where I had sought for him in vain; it was a dark stormy night, and he did not return. His father expressed the utmost anxiety, and spoke of detaching a party at the dawn of morning in quest of him, when, as we were sitting at the supper-table, the door suddenly opened, and Allan entered the room with a proud, firm, and confident air. His intractability of temper, as well as the unsettled state of his mind, had such an influence over his father, that he suppressed all other tokens of displeasure, excepting the observation that I had killed a fat buck, and had returned before sun-set, while he supposed Allan, who had been on the hill till midnight, had returned with empty hands. ‚Are you sure of that?' said Allan, fiercely; ‚here is something will tell you another tale.'

«We now observed his hands were bloody, and that there were spots of blood on his face, and waited the issue with impatience; when sudden-

ly, undoing the corner of his plaid, he rolled down on the table a human head, bloody and new severed, saying, at the same time, ‚Lie thou where the head of a better man lay before ye.' From the hagard features, and matted red-hair and beard, partly grizzled with age, his father and others present recognised the head of Hector of the Mist, a well-known leader among the outlaws, redoubted for strength and ferocity, who had been active in the murder of the unfortunate warden, and had escaped by desperate defence and extraordinary agility, when so many of his companions were destroyed. We were all, it may be believed, struck with surprise, but Allan refused to gratify our curiosity; and we only conjectured that he must have overcome the outlaw after a desperate struggle, because we discovered that he had sustained several wounds from the contest. All measures were now taken to ensure him against the vengeance of the free-booters, but neither his wounds nor the positive command of his father, nor even the locking the gates of the castle and the doors of his apartment, were precautions adequate to prevent Allan from seeking out the very persons to whom he was peculiarly obnoxious. He made his escape by night from the window of the apartment, and laughing at his father's vain care, produced on one occasion

the head of one, and upon another those of two of the Children of the Mist. At length these men, fierce as they were, became appalled by the inveterate animosity and audacity with which Allan sought out their recesses. As he never hesitated to encounter any odds, they concluded that he must bear a charmed life, or fight under the guardianship of some supernatural influence. Neither gun, dirk, nor dourlach, they said, availed aught against him. They imputed this to the remarkable circumstances under which he was born; and at length five or six of the stoutest Caterans of the Highlands would have fled at Allan's halloo, or the blast of his horn. In the meanwhile, however, they carried on their old trade, and did the M'Aulays, as well as their kinsmen and allies, as much mischief as they could. This provoked another expedition against the tribe, in which I had my share; we surprised them effectually, by besetting at once the upper and under passes of the county, and made such clean work as is usual on these occasions, burning and slaying right before us. In this terrible species of war, even the females and the helpless do not always escape. One little maiden alone, who smiled upon Allan's drawn dirk, escaped his vengeance upon my earnest entreaty. She was brought to the castle, and here bred up under the name of Annot Lyle,

the most beautiful little fairy certainly that ever danced upon a heath by moon-light. It was long ere Allan could endure the presence of the child, until it occurred to his imagination, from her features perhaps, that she did not belong to the hated blood of his enemies, but had become their captive in some of their incursions; a circumstance not in itself impossible, but in which he believes as firmly as in holy writ. He is particularly delighted by her skill in music, which is so exquisite, that she far exceeds the best performers in this country in playing on the clashach or harp. It was discovered that this produced upon the disturbed spirits of Allan, in his gloomiest moods, beneficial effects, similar to those experienced by the Jewish monarch of old; and so engaging is the temper of Annot Lyle, so fascinating the innocence and gaiety of her disposition, that she is considered and treated in the castle rather as the sister of the proprietor, than as a dependent upon his charity. Indeed, it is impossible for any one to see her without being deeply interested by the ingenuity, liveliness, and sweetness of her disposition."

«Take care, my lord," said Anderson, smiling; „there is danger in such violent commendations. Allan M'Aulay, as your lordship describes him, would prove no very safe rival."

«Pooh! pooh!" said Lord Menteith, laughing, yet blushing at the same time; «Allan is not accessible to the passion of love; and for myself," said he more gravely, «Annot's unknown birth is a sufficient reason against serious designs, and her unprotected state precludes every other."

«It is spoken like yourself, my lord," said Anderson. — «But I trust you will proceed with your interesting story."

«It is well nigh finished," said Lord Menteith; «I have only to add, that, from the great strength and courage of Allan M'Aulay, from his energetic and uncontroulable disposition, and from an opinion generally entertained and encouraged by himself, that he holds communion with supernatural beings, and can predict future events, the clan pay a much greater degree of deference to him than even to his brother, who is a bold-hearted rattling Highlander, but with nothing which can possibly rival the extraordinary character of his younger brother."

«Such a character," said Anderson, „cannot but have the deepest effect on the minds of a Highland host. We must secure Allan, my lord, at all events. What between his bravery and his second sight" —

«Hush!" said Lord Menteith, «that owl is awaking."

«Do you talk of the second sight, or *deuteroscopia?*" said the soldier; «I remember memorable Major Monro telling me how Murdoch Mackenzie, born in Assint, a private gentleman in a company and a pretty soldier, foretold the death of Donald Tough, a Lochaber man, and certain other persons, as well as the hurt of the major himself at a sudden onfall at the siege of Trailesund."

«I have often heard of this faculty," observed Anderson, «but I have always thought those pretending to it were either enthusiasts or impostors."

«I should be loth," said Lord Menteith, «to apply either character to my kinsman, Allan M'Aulay. He has shewn on many occasions too much acuteness and sense, of which you this night had an instance, for the character of an enthusiast; and his high sense of honour, and manliness of disposition, free him from the charge of imposture."

«Your lordship, then," said Anderson, «is a believer in his supernatural attributes?"

«By no means," said the young nobleman; «I think that he persuades himself that the predictions which are, in reality, the result of judgment and reflection, are supernatural im-

pressions on his mind, just as fanatics conceive the workings of their own imagination to be divine inspiration — at least, if this will not serve you, Anderson, I have no better explanation to give; and it is time we were all asleep after the toilsome journey of the day."

CHAPTER VI.

—— Coming events cast their shadows before.

Campbell.

At an early hour in the morning the guests of the Castle sprung from their repose; and, after a moment's private conversation with his attendants, Lord Menteith addressed the soldier, who was seated in a corner burnishing his corslet with rot-stone and shamois-leather, while he hummed the old song in honour of the victorious Gustavus Adolphus: —

When cannon are roaring, and bullets are flying,
The lad that would have honour, boys, must never fear dying.

«Captain Dalgetty,» said Lord Menteith, «the

time is come that we must part, or become comrades in service."

«Not before breakfast, I hope," said Captain Dalgetty.

„I should have thought," replied his lordship, «that your garrison was victualled for three days at least."

«I have still some stowage left for beef and bannocks," said the Captain; «and I never miss a favourable oportunity of renewing my supplies."

«But," said Lord Menteith, „no judicious commander allows either flags of truce or neutrals to remain in his camp longer than is prudent; and therefore we must know your mind exactly, according to which you shall either have a safe conduct to depart in peace, or be welcome to remain with us."

«Truly," said the Captain, «that being the case, I will not attempt to protract the capitulation by a counterfeited parley, (a thing excellently practised by Sir James Ramsay at the siege of Hannau, in the year of God 1636,) but I will frankly own, that if I like your pay as well as your provant and your company, I care not how soon I take the oath to your colours."

„Our pay," said Lord Menteith, «must at present be small, since it is paid out of the common stock raised by the few amongst us who

can command some funds — as major and adjudant, I dare not promise Captain Dalgetty more than half a dollar a-day."

«The devil take all halves and quarters!" said the Captain; «were it in my option, I could no more consent to the halving of that dollar, than the woman in the Judgment of Solomon to the disseverment of the child of her bowels."

«The parallel will scarce hold, Captain Dalgetty, for I think you would rather consent to the dividing of the dollar than give it up entire to your competitor. However, in the way of arrears I may promise you the other half-dollar at the end of the campaign."

«Ah! these arrearages," said Captain Dalgetty, «that are always promised, and always go for nothing! Spain, Austria, and Sweden, all sing one song. Oh! long life to the Hoganmogans! if they were no officers or soldiers, they were good pay-masters. And yet, my lord, if I could but be made certiorated that my natural hereditament of Drumthwacket had fallen into possession of any of these loons of Covenanters, who could be, in the event of our success, made a traitor of, I have so much value for that fertile and pleasant spot, that I would e'en take on wi' you for the campaign."

«I can resolve Captain Dalgetty's question," said Sibbald, Lord Menteith's second attendant,

«for if his estate of Drumthwacket be, as I conceive, the long waste moor so called, that lies five miles south of Aberdeen, I can tell him it was lately purchased by Elias Strachan, as rank a rebel as ever swore the Covenant."

«The crop-eared hound!" said Captain Dalgetty, in a rage; «what the devil gave him the assurance to purchase the inheritance of a family of four hundred years standing? — *Cynthius aurem vellet*, as we used to say at Mareschal College, that is to say, I will pull him out of my father's house by the ears. And so, my Lord Menteith, I am yours, hand and sword, body and soul, till death do us part, or to the end of the next campaign, whichever event shall first come to pass."

«And I," said the young nobleman, «rivet the bargain by a month's pay in advance."

«That is more than necessary," said Dalgetty, pocketting the money however. «But now I must go down, look after my warsaddle and abuilziements, and see that Gustavus has his morning, and tell him we have taken new service."

«There goes your precious recruit," said Lord Menteith to Anderson, as the Captain left the room; «I fear we shall have little credit of him."

«He is a man of the times, however," said

Anderson; «and without such we should hardly be able to carry on our enterprise."

«Let us go down," answered Lord Menteith, «and see how our muster is likely to thrive, for I hear a good deal of bustle in the castle."

When they entered the hall, the domestics keeping modestly in the back-ground, morning greetings past between Lord Menteith, Angus M'Aulay, and his English guests, while Allan, occupying the same settle which he had filled the preceding evening, paid no attention whatever to any one.

Old Donald hastily rushed into the apartment. «A message from Vich Alister More; he is coming up in the evening."

«With how many attendants?" said M'Aulay.

Some five-and-twenty or thirty," said Donald, «his ordinary retinue."

«Shake down plenty of straw in the great barn," said the Laird.

Another servant here stumbled hastily in, announcing the expected arrival of Sir Hector M'Lean, «who is arriving with a large following."

«Put them in the malt kiln," said M'Aulay; «and keep the breadth of the middenstead between them and the M'Donalds; they are but unfriends to each other."

Donald now re-entered, his visage considera-

bly lengthened — «The tiel's i' the folk," he said; «the hale Hielands are asteer, I think. Evan Dhu, of Lochiel, will be here in an hour, with Lord kens how many gillies."

„Into the great barn with them beside the M'Donalds," said the Laird.

More and more Chiefs were announced, the least of whom would have accounted it derogatory to his dignity to stir without a retinue of six or seven persons. To every new annunciation, Angus M'Auley answered by naming some place of accommodation, — the stable, the loft, the cow-house, the sheds, every domestic office was destined for the night to some hospitable purpose or accommodation. At length the arrival of M'Dougal of Lorn, after all his means of accommodation were exhausted, reduced him to some perplexity. „What the devil is to be done, Donald?" said he; «the great barn would hold fifty more, if they would lie heads and thraws; but there would be drawn dirks amang them which should lie uppermost, and so we should have bloody puddings before morning!»

«What needs all this?" said Allan, starting up, and coming forward with the stern abruptness of his usual manner; «are the Gael to-day of softer flesh or whiter blood than their fathers were? Knock the head out of a cask of usque-

bae, let that be their night gear — their plaids their bed-clothes — and the blue sky their canopy, and the heather their couch — come a thousand more, and they would not quarrel on the broad heath for want of room!"

«Allan is right," said his brother; «it is very odd how Allan, who, between ourselves," said he to Musgrave, «is a little wowf, seems at times to have more sense than us all put together. Observe him now."

«Yes," continued Allan, fixing his eyes with a ghastly stare upon the opposite side of the hall, «they may well begin as they are to end; many a man will sleep this night upon the heath, that when the Martinmas wind shall blow shall lie there stark enough, and reck little of cold or lack of covering."

«Do not forespeak us, brother," said Angus; «that is not lucky."

«And what luck is it then that you expect?» said Allan; and straining his eyes until they almost started from their sockets, he fell with a convulsive shudder into the arms of Donald and his brother, who, knowing the nature of his fits, had come near to prevent his fall. They seated him upon a bench, and supported him until he came to himself, and was about to speak.

«For God's sake, Allan," said his brother,

who knew the impression his mystical words were likely to make on many of the guests, «say nothing to discourage us."

«Am I he who discourages you?" said Allan; «let every man face his weird as I shall face mine. That which must come, will come; and we shall stride gallantly over many a field of victory ere we reach yon fatal slaughter-place, or tread yon sable scaffolds!"

«What slaughter-place? what scaffolds?" exclaimed several voices; for Allan's renown as a seer was generally established in the Highlands.

«You will know that but too soon," answered Allan. «Speak to me no more, I am weary of your questions." He then pressed his hand against his brow, rested his elbow upon his knee, and sunk into a deep reverie.

„Send for Annot Lyle, and the harp," said Angus, in a whisper, to his servant; «and let those gentlemen follow me, who do not fear a Highland breakfast."

All accompanied their hospitable landlord excepting only Lord Menteith, who lingered in one of the deep embrasures formed by the windows of the hall. Annot Lyle shortly after glided into the room, not ill described by Lord Menteith as being the lightest and most fairy figure that ever trod the turf by moon-light.

Her stature, considerably less than the ordinary size of women, gave her the appearance of extreme youth, insomuch, that although she was near eighteen, she might have passed for four years younger. Her figure, hand, and feet, were formed upon a model of exquisite symmetry with the size and lightness of her person, so that Titania herself could scarce have found a more fitting representative. Her hair was a dark shade of the colour usually termed flaxen, whose clustering ringlets suited admirably with her fair complexion, and with the playful, yet simple expression of her features. When we add to these charms, that Annot, in her orphan state, seemed the gayest and happiest of maidens, the reader must allow us to claim for her the interest of almost all who looked on her. In fact, it was impossible to find a more universal favourite, and she often came among the rude inhabitants of the castle, as Allan himself, in a poetical mood, expressed it, «like a sunbeam on a sullen sea," communicating to all others the cheerfulness that filled her own mind.

Annot, such as we have described her, smiled and blushed, when, on entering the apartment, Lord Menteith came from his place of retirement, and kindly wished her good-morning.

«And good-morning to you, my lord," returned she, extending her hand to her friend; «we have seldom seen you of late at the castle, and now I fear it is with no peaceful purpose."

«At least, let me not interrupt your harmony, Annot," said Lord Menteith, «though my arrival may breed discord elsewhere. My cousin, Allan, needs the assistance of your voice and music."

«My preserver," said Annot Lyle, „has a right to my poor exertions; and you, too, my lord, — you, too, are my preserver, and were the most active to save a life that is worthless enough, unless it can benefit my protectors."

So saying, she sate down at a little distance upon the bench on which Allan M'Aulay was placed, and tuning her clairshach, a small harp, about thirty inches in height, she accompanied it with her voice. The air was an ancient Gaelic melody, and the words, which were supposed to be very old, were in the same language; but we subjoin a translation of them, by Secundus M'Pherson, Fsq. of Glenforgen, which, although submitted to the fetters of English rhythm, we trust will be found nearly as genuine as the version of Ossian by his celebrated namesake.

1.

„Birds of omen dark and foul,
Night-crow, raven, bat and owl,
Leave the sick man to his dream —
All night long he heard your scream. —
Haste to cave and ruined tower,
Ivy, tod, or dingled-bower,
There to wink and mop, for, hark!
In the mid air sings the lark.

2.

„Hie to moorish gills and rocks,
Prowling wolf and wily fox, —
Hie you fast, nor turn your view,
Though the lamb bleats to the ewe.
Couch your trains, and speed your flight,
Safety parts with parting night;
And on distant echo born,
Comes the hunter's early horn.

3.

„The moon's wan crescent scarcely gleams,
Ghost-like she fades in morning beams;
Hie hence each peevish imp and fay
That scare the pilgrim on his way: —
Quench, kelpy! quench, in bog and fen,

Thy torch that cheats benighted men;
Thy dance is o'er, thy reign is done,
For Benyieglo hath seen the sun.

4.

« Wild thoughts, that, sinful, dark and deep,
O'erpower the passive mind in sleep,
Pass from the slumberer's soul away,
Like night-mists from the brow of day: —
Foul hag, whose blasted visage grim
Smothers the pulse, unnerves the limb,
Spur thy dark palfrey, and begone!
Thou darest not face the godlike sun."

As the strain proceeded, Allan M'Aulay gradually gave sings of recovering his presence of mind and attention to the objects around him. The deep-knit furrows of his brow relaxed and smoothed themselves; and the rest of his features, which had seemed contorted with internal agony, relapsed into a more natural state. When he raised his head and sat upright, his countenance, though still deeply melancholy, was divested of its wildness and ferocity; and in its composed state, although by no means handsome, the expression of his features was striking, manly, and even noble. His thick,

brown eye-brows, which had hitherto been drawn close together, were now slightly separated, as in the natural state; and his grey eyes, which had rolled and flashed from under them with an unnatural and portentous gleam, now recovered a steady and determined expression.

«Thank God!» he said, after sitting silent for about a minute, until the very last sounds of the harp had ceased to vibrate, «my soul is no longer darkened — the mist hath passed from my spirit."

«You owe thanks, cousin Allan," said Lord Menteith, coming forward, «to Annot Lyle, as well as to heaven, for this happy change in your melancholy mood."

«My noble cousin Menteith," said Allan, rising and greeting him very respectfully, as well as kindly, «has known my unhappy circumstances so long, that his kindness will require no excuse for my being thus late in bidding him welcome to the castle."

«We are too old acquaintances, Allan," said Lord Menteith, «and too good friends, to stand to the ceremonial of outward greeting; but here will be half the Highlands to-day, and, you know, with our mountain Chiefs ceremony must not be neglected. What will you give little Annot for making you fit company to

meet Evan Dhu, and I know not how many bonnets and feathers?"

«What will he give me?" said Annot, smiling; «nothing less, I hope, than the best ribbon at the fair of Doune."

«The fair of Doune, Annot?" said Allan sadly, «there will be bloody work before that day, and I may never see it; but you have well reminded me of what I have long intended to do."

Having said this, he left the room.

«Should he talk long in this manner," said Lord Mentcith, «you must keep your harp in tune, my dear Annot."

«I hope not," said Annot, anxiously; «this fit has been a long one, and probably will not soon return. It is fearful to see a mind, naturally generous and affectionate, afflicted by this constitutional malady."

As she spoke in a low and confidential tone, Lord Menteith naturally drew close, and stooped forwards, that he might the better catch the sense of what she said. When Allan suddenly entered the apartment, they naturally drew back from each other with a manner expressive of consciousness, as if surprised in a conversation which they wished to keep secret from him. This did not escape Allan's observation; he stopt short at the door of the apartment — his brows were

contracted — his eyes rolled; but is was only the paroxysm of a moment. He passed his broad sinewy hand across his brow, as if to obliterate those signs of emotion, and advanced towards Annot, holding in his hand a very small box made of oakwood, curiously inlaid. «I take you to witness," he said, «cousin Menteith, that I give this box and its contents to Annot Lyle. It contains a few ornaments that belonged to my poor mother — of trifling value, you may guess, for the wife of a Highland laird has seldom a rich jewel casket."

«But these ornaments," said Annot Lyle, gently and timidly refusing the box, «belong to the family — I cannot accept" ——

„They belong to me alone, Annot," said Allan, interrupting her; «they were my mother's dying bequest. They are all I can call my own, except my plaid and my claymore. Take them, therefore — they are to me valueless trinkets — and keep them for my sake — should I never return from these wars."

So saying, he opened the case, and presented it to Annot. «If," said he, «they are of any value, dispose of them for your own support, when this house has been consumed with hostile fire, and can no longer afford you protection. — But keep one ring in memory of Allan, who has

done to requite your kindness, if not all he wished, at least all he could."

Annot Lyle endeavoured in vain to restrain the gathering tears, when she said, «*One* ring, Allan, I will accept from you as a memorial of your goodness to a poor orphan, but do not press me to take more; for I can not, and will not, accept a gift of such disproportioned value,"

«Make your choice, then," said Allan; «your delicacy may be well-founded; the others shall assume a shape in which they may be more useful to you."

«Think not of it," said Annot, choosing from the contents of the casket a ring, apparently the most trifling in value which it contained; «keep them for your own, or your brother's bride. — But, good heavens!" she said, interrupting herself, and looking at the ring, «what is this that I have chosen?"

Allan hastened to look upon it, with eyes of gloomy apprehension; it bore, in enamel, a death's head above two crossed daggers. When Allan recognized the device, he uttered a sigh so deep, that she dropped the ring from her hand, which rolled upon the floor. Lord Menteith picked it up, and returned it to the terrified Annot.

«I take God to witness," said Allan, «that your hand, young lord, and not mine, has

again delivered to her this illomened gift. It was the mourning ring worn by my mother in memorial of her murdered brother."

«I fear no omens," said Annot, smiling through her tears; «and nothing coming through the hands of my two patrons," so she was wont to call Lord Menteith and Allan, «can bring bad luck to the poor orphan."

She put the ring on her finger, and, turning to her harp, sung, to a lively air, the following verses of one of the fashionable songs of the period, which had found its way, marked as it was with the quaint hyperbolical taste of King Charles's time, from some court masque to the wilds of Perthshire.

«Gaze not upon the stars, fond sage,
In them no influence lies;
To read the fate of youth or age,
Look on my Helen's eyes.

«Yet, rash astrologer, refrain,
Too dearly would be won
The prescience of another's pain,
If purchased by thine own."

«She is right, Allan," said Lord Menteith; «and this end of an old song is worth all we shall gain by our attempt to look into futurity."

«She is wrong, my lord," said Allan, sternly, «though you, who treat with lightness the warnings I have given you, may not live to see the event of the omen. Laugh not so scornfully," he added, interrupting himself, «or rather laugh on as loud and as long as you will; your term of laughter will find a pause ere long."

«I care not for your visions, Allan," said Lord Menteith; «however short my span of life, the eye of no Highland seer can see its termination."

«For Heaven's sake," said Annot Lyle, interruping him, «you know his nature, and how little he can endure" ——

«Fear me not," said Allan, interrupting her, — «my mind is now constant and calm. — But for you, young lord," said he, turning to Lord Menteith, «my eye has sought you through fields of battle, where Highlanders and Lowlanders lay strewed as thick as ever the rooks sat on those ancient trees," pointing to a rookery which was seen from the window — «my eye sought you, but your corpse was not there — my eye sought you among a train of unresisting and disarmed captives, drawn up within the bounding walls of an ancient and rugged fortress; — flash

after flash — platoon after platoon — the hostile shot fell emongst them, but you were not among their ranks; — scaffolds were prepared — blocks were arranged, saw-dust was spread — the priest was ready with his book, the headsman with his axe — but there, too, mine eye found you not."

«The gibbet, then, I suppose, must be my doom?" said Lord Menteith. „I wish they had spared me the halter, were it but for the dignity of the peerage."

He spoke this scornfully, yet not without a sort of curiosity, and a wish to receive an answer; for the desire of prying into futurity frequently has some influence even on the minds of those who disavow all belief in the possibility of such predictions.

«Your rank, my lord, will suffer no dishonour in your person, or by the manner of your death. Three times have I seen a Highlander plant his dirk in your bosom — and such will be your fate."

«I wish you would describe him to me," said Lord Menteith, «and I shall save him the trouble of fulfilling your prophesy, if his plaid be passable to sword or pistol."

«Your weapons," said Allan, «would avail you little; nor can I give you the information

you desire. The face of the vision has been ever averted from me."

«So be it then," said Lord Menteith, «and let it rest in the uncertainty in which your augury has placed it. I shall dine not the less merrily among plaids, and dirks, and kilts today."

«It may be so," said Allan; «and, it may be, you do well to enjoy these moments, which to me are poisoned by auguries of future evil. But I," he continued — «I repeat to you, that this weapon," touching the hilt of the dirk which he wore, «carries your fate."

«In the meanwhile," said Lord Menteith, «you, Allan, have frightened the blood from the cheeks of Annot Lyle — let us leave this discourse, my friend, and go to see what we both understand, — the progress of our military preparations."

They joined Angus M'Aulay and his English guests, and, in the military discussions which immediately took place, Allan shewed a clearness of mind, strength of judgment, and precision of thought, totally inconsistent with the mystical light in which his character has been hitherto exhibited.

CHAPTER VII.

When Albin her claymore indignantly draws,
When her bonneted chieftains around her shall crowd,
Clan-Ranald the dauntless, and Moray the proud,
All plaided and plumed in their tartan array ——

Lochiel's Warning.

WHOEVER saw that morning the castle of Darnlinvarach beheld a busy and a gallant sight.

The various Chiefs, arriving with their different retinues, which, notwithstanding their numbers, formed no more than their usual equipage and body guard upon occasions of solemnity, saluted the lord of the castle and each other with overflowing kindness, or with haughty and distant politeness, according to the circumstances of friendship or hostility in which their clans

had recently stood to each other. Each Chief, however small his comparative importance, shewed the full disposition to exact from the rest the deference due to a separate and independent prince; while the stronger and more powerful, divided among themselves by recent contentions or ancient feuds, were constrained in policy to use great deference to the feelings of their less powerful brethren, in order, in case of need, to attach as many as might be to their own interest and standard. Thus the meeting of Chiefs resembled not a little those ancient Diets of the Empire, where the smallest *Frey-Graf*, who possessed a castle perched upon a barren crag, with a few hundred acres around it, claimed the state and honours of a sovereign prince, and a seat according to his rank among the dignitaries of the empire.

The followers of the different leaders were separately arranged and accommodated, as room and circumstances best permitted, each retaining, however, his henchman, who waited, close as the shadow, upon his person, to execute whatever might be required by his patron.

The exterior of the castle afforded a singular scene. The Highlanders, from different islands, glens, and straths, eyed each other at a distance with looks of emulation, inquisitive curiosity, or hostile malevolence; but the most as-

rounding part of the assembly, at least to a Low-land ear, was the rival performance of the bag-pipers. These warlike minstrels, who had the highest opinion each of the superiority of his own tribe, joined to the most overweening idea of the importance connected with the profession, at first performed their various pibrochs in front each of his own clan. At length, however, as the black-cocks towards the end of the season, when, in sportsman's language, they are said to flock, are attracted together by the sound of each other's triumphant crow, even so did the pipers, swelling their plaids and tartans in the same triumphant manner in which the birds ruffle up their feathers, begin to approach each other within such distance as might give to their brethren a sample of their skill. Walking within a short distance, and eyeing each other with looks in which self-importance and defiance might be traced, they strutted, puffed, and plied their screaming instruments, each playing his own favourite tune with such a din, that if an Italian musician had lain buried within ten miles of them, he must have risen from the dead to run out of hearing.

The chieftains meanwhile had assembled in close conclave in the great hall of the castle. Among them were the persons of the greatest consequence in the Highlands, some of them

attracted by zeal for the royal cause, and many by aversion to that domination which the Marquis of Argyle, since his rising to such influence in the state, had exercised over his Highland neighbours. That statesman, indeed, though possessed of very considerable abilities, and very great power, had failings which rendered him unpopular among the Highland chiefs. The devotion which he professed was of a morose and fanatical character; his ambition appeared to be insatiable, and inferior chiefs complained of his want of bounty and liberality. Add to this, that although a Highlander, and of a family distinguished for valour before and since, Gillespie Grumach, (which was the personal distinction he bore in the Highlands, where titles of rank are unknown,) was suspected of being a better man in the cabinet than in the field. He and his tribe were particularly obnoxious to the M'Donalds and the M'Leans, two numerous septs, who, though disunited by ancient feuds, agreed in an intense dislike to the Campbells, or, as they were called, the Children of Diarmid.

Eor some time the assembled Chiefs remained silent, until some one should open the business of the meeting. At length one of the most powerful of them commenced the diet by saying, — «We have been summoned hither, M'-

Aulay, to consult of weighty matters concerning the King's affairs, and those of the state, and we crave to know by whom they are to be explained to us?"

M'Aulay, whose strength did not lie in oratory, intimated his wish that Lord Menteith should open the business of the council. With great modesty, and, at the same time, with spirit, that young lord said, «he wished what he was about to propose had come from some person of better known, and more established character. Since, however, it lay with him to be spokesman, he had to state to the chiefs assembled, that those who wished to throw off the base yoke which fanaticism had endeavoured to wreath round their necks, had not a moment to lose. The Covenanters," he said, «after having twice made war upon their sovereign, and having extorted from him every request, reasonable or unreasonable, which they thought proper to exact — after their chiefs had been loaded with dignities and favours — after having publicly declared, when his Majesty, after a gracious visit to the land of his nativity, was upon his return to England, that he returned a contented King from a contented people, — after all this, and without even the pretext for a national grievance, the same men have, upon doubts and suspicions, equally dishonourable to the King, and

groundless in themselves, detached a strong army to assist his rebels in England, in a quarrel with which Scotland had no more to do than she has with the wars in Germany. It was well," he said, «that the eagerness with which this treasonable purpose was pursued, had blinded the junto who now usurped the government of Scotland to the risk which they were about to incur. The army which they had dispatched to England under old Leven comprehended their veteran soldiers, the strength of those armies which had been levied in Scotland during the two former wars" ——

Here Captain Dalgetty endeavoured to rise, for the purpose of explaining how many veteran officers, trained in the German wars, were, to his certain knowledge, in the army of the Earl of Leven. But Allan M'Aulay holding him down in the seat with one hand, pressed the forefinger of the other upon his own lips, and, though with some difficulty, prevented his interference. Captain Dalgetty looked upon him with a very scornful and indignant air, by which the other's gravity was in no way moved, and Lord Menteith proceeded without farther interruption.

«The moment," he said, «was most favourable for all true-hearted and loyal Scotchmen to shew, that the reproach their country had lately undergone arose from the selfish ambi-

tion of a few turbulent and seditious men, joined to the absurd fanaticism which, disseminated from five hundred pulpits, had spread like a land-flood over the Lowlands of Scotland. He had letters from the Marquis of Huntly in the north, which he should shew to the chiefs separately. That nobleman, equally loyal and powerful, was determined to exert his utmost energy in the common cause, and the powerful Earl of Seaforth was prepared to join the same standard. From the Earl of Airly, and the Ogilvies in Angus-shire, he had had communications equally decided; and there was no doubt that these, who, with the Hays, Leiths, Burnets, and other loyal gentlemen, would be soon on horseback, would form a body far more than sufficient to overawe the northern Covenanters, who had already experienced their valour in the well-known rout which was popularly termed the Trot of Turiff. South of Forth and Tay," he said, «the King had many friends, who, oppressed by enforced oaths, compulsatory levies, heavy taxes, unjustly imposed and unequally levied, by the tyranny of the Committee of Estates, and the inquisitorial insolence of the Presbyterian divines, waited but the waving of the royal banner to take up arms. Douglas, Traquair, Roxburgh, Hume, all friendly to the royal cause, would counterbalance," he

said, «the covenanting interest in the south; and two gentlemen, of name and quality, here present, from the north of England, would answer for the zeal of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Northumberland. Against so many gallant gentlemen the southern Covenanters could but arm raw levies; the Whig-amores of the western shires, and the plowmen and mechanics of the Low-country. For the West Highlands, he knew no interest which the Covenanters possessed there, except that of one individual, as well known as he was odious. But was there a single man, who, on casting his eye round this hall, and recognising the power, the gallantry, and the dignity of the chiefs assembled, could entertain a moment's doubt of their success against the utmost force which Gillespie Grumach could collect against them? He had only farther to add, that considerable funds, both of money and ammunition, had been provided for the army — (Here Dalgetty drew himself up, and looked round) — that officers of ability and experience in the foreign wars, one of whom was now present, had engaged to train such levies as might require to be disciplined; — and that a numerous body of auxiliary forces from Ireland, having been detached from the Earl of Antrim, from Ulster, had successfully accomplished their descent upon the main land,

and with the assistance of Clanranald's people, having taken and fortified the castle of Mingarry, in spite of Argyle's attempts to intercept them, were in full march to this place of rendez-vous. It only remained," he said, «that the noble Chiefs assembled, laying aside every lesser consideration, should unite, heart and hand, in the common cause; send the fiery cross through their clans, in order to collect their utmost force, and form their junction with such celerity as to leave the enemy no time, either for preparation, or recovery from the panic which would spread at the first sound of their pibroch. He himself," he said, «though neither among the richest nor the most powerful of the Scottish nobility, felt that he had to support the dignity of an ancient and honourable nation, and to that cause he was determined to devote both life and fortune. If those who were more powerful were equally prompt, he trusted they would deserve the thanks of their King, and the gratitude of posterity,"

Loud applause followed this speech of Lord Menteith, and testified the general aquiescence of all present in the sentiments which he had expressed; but when the shout had died away, the assembled Chiefs continued to gaze upon each other as if something yet remained to be settled. After some whispers among themselves,

an aged man, whom his grey hairs rendered respectable, although he was not of the highest order of Chiefs, replied to what had been said.

«Thane of Menteith," he said, «you have well spoken, nor is there one of us in whose bosom the same sentiments do not burn like fire. But it is not strength alone that wins the fight; it is the head of the commander as well as the arm of the soldier, that brings victory. I ask of you who is to raise and sustain the banner under which we are invited to rise and muster ourselves? Will it be expected that we should risque our children, and the flower of our kinsmen, ere we know to whose guidance they are intrusted? This were leading those to slaughter, whom, by the laws of God and man, it is our duty to protect. Where is the royal commission, under which the lieges are to be convocated in arms? Simple and rude as we may be deemed, we know something of the established rules of war as well as of the laws of our country; nor will we arm ourselves against the general peace, unless by the express commands of the King, and under a leader fit to command such men as are here assembled."

«Where would you find such a leader," said another Chief, starting up, «saving the representative of the Lords of the Isles, entitled by birth and hereditary descent to lead forth the

array of every clan of the Highlands; and where is that dignity lodged, save in the house of Vich Alister More?"

«I acknowledge," said another Chief, eagerly interrupting the speaker, «the truth in what has been first said, but not the inference. If Vich Alister More desires to be held representative of the Lords of the Isles, let him first shew his blood is redder than mine."

«That is soon proved," said Vich Alister More, laying his hand upon the basket-hilt of his claymore. Lord Menteith threw himself between them, entreating and imploring each to remember that the interests of Scotland, the liberty of their country, and the cause of their King, ought to be superior in their eyes to any personal disputes respecting descent, rank, and precedence. Several of the Highland Chiefs, who had no desire to admit the claims of either chieftain, interfered to the same purpose, and none with more emphasis than the celebrated Evan Dhu.

«I have come from my lakes," he said, „as a stream descends from the hills, not to turn again, but to accomplish my course. It is not by looking back to our own pretensions that we shall serve Scotland or King Charles. My voice shall be for that general whom the King shall name, who will doubtless possess those qualities which are necessary to command men like us.

High-born he must be, or we shall lose our rank in obeying him — wise and skilful, or we shall endanger the safety of our people — bravest among the brave, or we shall peril our own honour — temperate, firm, and manly, to keep us united. Such is the man that must command us. Are you prepared, Thane of Menteith, to say where such a general is to be found?"

„There is but one," said Allan M'Aulay; «and here," he said, laying his hand upon the shoulder of Anderson, who stood behind Lord Menteith, «here he stands."

The general surprise of the meeting was expressed by an impatient murmur; when Anderson, throwing back the cloak in which his face was muffled, and stepping forward, spoke thus; — «I did not long intend to be a silent spectator of this interesting scene, although my hasty friend has obliged me to disclose myself somewhat sooner than was my intention. Whether I deserve the honour reposed in me by this parchment will best appear from what I shall be able to do for the King's service. It is a commission, under the great seal, to James Graham, Earl of Montrose, to command „those forces which are to be assembled for the service of his Majesty in this kingdom."

A loud shout of approbation burst from the

assembly, There was, in fact, no other person to whom, in point of rank, these proud mountaineers would have been disposed to submit. His inveterate and hereditary hostility to the Marquis of Argyle insured his engaging in the war with sufficient energy, while his well-known military talents, and his tried valour, afforded every hope of his bringing it to a favourable conclusion.

CHAPTER VIII.

Our plot is a good plot as ever was laid; our friends true and constant: a good plot, good friends, and full of expectation: an excellent plot, very good friends.

Henry IV. Part I. Act II. Sc. III.

No sooner had the general acclamation of joyful surprise subsided, than silence was eagerly demanded for reading the royal commission; and the bonnets, which hitherto each chief had worn, probably because unwilling to be the first to uncover, were now at once vailed in honour of the royal warrant. It was couched in the most full and ample terms, authorising the Earl of Montrose to assemble the subjects in arms, for the putting down the present rebellion, which divers traitors and seditious persons had levied against the King, to the manifest

forfaulture, as it stated, of their allegiance, and to the breach of the pacification between the two kingdoms. It enjoined all subordinate authorities to be obedient and assisting to Montrose in his enterprise; gave him the power of making ordinances and proclamations, punishing misdemeanours, pardoning criminals, placing and displacing governors and commanders. In fine, it was as large and full a commission as any with which a prince could entrust a subject. So soon as it was finished, a shout burst from the assembled chiefs, in testimony of their willing submission to the will of their Sovereign. Not contented with generally thanking them for a reception so favourable, Montrose hastened to address himself to individuals. The most important chiefs had already been long personally known to him, but even to those of inferior consequence he now introduced himself, and by the acquaintance he displayed with their peculiar designations, and the circumstances and history of their clans, he shewed how long he must have studied the character of the mountaineers, and so prepared himself for such a situation as he now held.

While he was engaged in these acts of courtesy, his graceful manner, expressive features, and dignity of deportment, made a singular contrast with the coarseness and meanness of his

dress. Montrose possessed that sort of form and face, in which the beholder, at the first glance, sees nothing extraordinary, but of which the interest becomes more impressive the longer we gaze upon them. His stature was very little above the middle size, but in person he was uncommonly well built, and capable both of exerting great force, and enduring much fatigue. In fact, he enjoyed a constitution of iron, without which he could not have sustained the hardships of his extraordinary campaigns, through all of which he subjected himself to the hardships of the meanest soldier. He was perfect in all exercises, whether peaceful or martial, and possessed, of course, that graceful ease of deportment proper to those to whom habit has rendered all postures easy. His long brown hair, according to the custom of men of quality among the Royalists, was parted on the top of his head, and trained to hang down on each side in curled locks, one of which, descending two or three inches lower than the others, intimated Montrose's compliance with that fashion against which it pleased Mr Prynne, the puritan, to write a treatise, entitled, «The Unloveliness of Lovelocks."

The features which these tresses inclosed, were of that kind which derive their interest from the character of the man, rather than from the re-

gularity of their form. But a high nose, a full, decided, well-opened, quick grey eye, and a sanguine complexion, made amends for some coarseness and irregularity in the subordinate parts of the face; so that, in general, Montrose might be termed rather a handsome, than a hard-featured man. But those who saw him when his soul looked through those eyes with all the energy and fire of genius — those who heard him speak with the authority of talent, and the eloquence of nature, were impressed with an opinion even of his external form, more enthusiastically favourable than the portraits which still survive would entitle us to ascribe to them. Such, at least, was the impression he made upon the assembled Chiefs of the mountaineers, over whom, as upon all persons in their state of society, personal appearance has no small influence.

In the discussions which followed his discovering himself, Montrose explained the various risks which he had run in his present undertaking. His first attempt had been to assemble a body of loyalists in the north of England, who, in obedience to the orders of the Marquis of Newcastle, he expected would have marched into Scotland; but the disinclination of the English to cross the Border, — the delay of the Earl of Antrim, who was to have landed in the Solway

Firth with his Irish army, prevented his executing this design; and other plans having in like manner failed, he stated that he found himself under the necessity of assuming a disguise through the Lowlands, in which he had been kindly assisted by his kinsman of Menteith. By what means Allan M'Aulay had come to know him, he could not pretend to explain. Those who knew Allan's prophetic pretensions, smiled mysteriously; but he himself only replied, that «the Earl of Montrose need not be surprised if he was known to thousands, of whom he himself could retain no memory."

«By the honour of a cavalier," said Captain Dalgetty, finding at length an opportunity to thrust in his word, «I am proud and happy in having an opportunity of drawing a sword under your lordship's command; and I do forgive all grudge, malcontent, and malice of my heart, to Mr Allan M'Aulay, for having thrust me down to the lowest seat of the board yestreen. Certes, he hath this day spoken so like a man having full command of his senses, that I had resolved that he was no way entitled to claim the privilege of insanity. But since I was only postponed to a noble earl, my future commander-in-chief, I do, before you all, recognise the justice of the preference, and heartily salute Allan as one who is to be his *bon-camarado*."

Having made this speech, which was little understood or attended to, without putting off his military glove, he seized on Allan's hand, and began to shake it with violence, which Allan, with a gripe like a smith's vice, returned with such force, as to drive the iron splents of the gauntlet into the hand of the wearer.

Captain Dalgetty might have construed this into a new affront, had not his attention, as he stood blowing and shaking his hand, been suddenly called by Montrose himself.

«Hear this news," he said, «Captain Dalgetty — I should say, Major Dalgetty, — the Irish, who are to profit by your military experience, are now within a few leagues of us."

«Our deer-stalkers," said Angus M'Aulay, «who were abroad to bring in venison for this honourable party, have heard of a band of strangers, who speak neither Saxon nor pure Gaelic, and can with difficulty make themselves be understood by the people of the country, who are marching this way in arms, under the leading, it is said, of Alaster M'Donald, who is commonly called Young Colkitto."

«These must be our men," said Montrose; «we must hasten to send messengers forward, both to act as guides and to relieve their wants."

«The last, said Angus M'Aulay, «will be no easy matter; for I am informed, that, except-

ing muskets and a very little ammunition, they want every thing that soldiers should have; and they are particularly deficient in money, in shoes, and in raiment."

«There is at least no use in saying so," said Montrose, «in so loud a tone. The puritan weavers of Glasgow shall provide them plenty of broad-cloth when we make a descent from the Highlands; and if the ministers could preach the old women of the Scottish boroughs out of their webs of napery, to make tents to the fellows on Dunse Law, I will try whether I have not a little interest both to make these godly dames renew their patriotic gift, and the prick-eared knaves, their husbands, open their purses."

«And, respecting arms," said Captain Dalgetty, «if your lordship will permit an old cavalier to speak his mind, so that the one-third have muskets, my darling weapon would be the pike for the remainder, whether for resisting a charge of horse, or for breaking the infantry. A common smith will make a hundred pike-heads in a day; here is plenty of wood for shafts; and I will uphold, that, according to the best usages of war, a strong battalion of pikes, drawn up in the fashion of the Lion of the North, the immortal Gustavus, would beat the Macedonian phalanx, of which I used to read in the Mare-

schal College, when I studied in the ancient town of Bon-accord; and further, I will venture to predicate " —

The Captain's lecture upon tactics was here suddenly interrupted by Allan M'Aulay, who said, hastily, — «Room for an unexpected and unwelcome guest."

At the same moment, the door of the hall opened, and a grey-haired man, of a very stately appearance, presented himself to the assembly. There was much dignity, and even authority, in his manner. His stature was above the common size, and his looks such as were used to command. He cast a severe, and almost stern glance upon the assembly of chiefs. Those of the higher rank among them returned it with scornful indifference; but some of the western gentlemen, of inferior power, looked as if they wished themselves elsewhere. «To which of this assembly," said the stranger, «am I to address myself as leader; or have you not fixed upon the person who is to hold an office at least as perilous as it is honourable?"

«Address yourself to me, Sir Duncan Campbell," said Montrose, stepping forward.

«To you!" said Sir Duncan Campbell, with some scorn.

«Yes, — to me," repeated Montrose, — «to the Earl of Montrose, if you have forgot him."

«I should now, at least," said Sir Duncan Campbell, «have had some difficulty in recognising him in the disguise of a groom. — And yet I might have guessed that no evil influence inferior to your lordship's, distinguished as one who troubles Israel, could have collected together this rash assembly of misguided persons."

«I will answer unto you," said Montrose «in the manner of your own Puritans. I have not troubled Israel, but thou and thy father's house. But let us leave an altercation, which is of little consequence but to ourselves, and hear the tidings you have brought from your chief of Argyle; for I must conclude that it is in his name that you have come to this meeting."

«It is in the name of the Marquis of Argyle," said Sir Duncan Campbell, — «in the name of the Scottish Parliament, that I demand to know the meaning of this singular convocation. If it is designed to disturb the peace of the country, it were but acting like neighbours, and men of honour, to give us some intimation to stand upon our guard."

«It is a singular, and new state of affairs in Scotland," said Montrose, turning from Sir Duncan Campbell to the assembly, «when Scottish men of rank and family cannot meet in the house of a common friend without an inquisitorial visit and demand, on the part of our rulers,

to know the subject of our conference. Methinks our ancestors were accustomed to hold Highland huntings, or other purposes or meeting, without asking the leave either of the great M'Callum More himself, or of any of his emissaries or dependants."

«The times have been such in Scotland," answered one of the Western Chiefs «and such they will again be, when the intruders on our ancient possessions are again reduced to be lairds of Lochow, instead of overspreading us like a band of devouring locusts."

«Am I to understand, then," said Sir Duncan, „that it is against *my* name alone that these preparations are directed? or are we only to be sufferers in common with the peaceful and orderly inhabitants of Scotland?"

„I would ask," said a wild-looking chief, starting hastily up, „one question at the Knight of Ardenvohr, ere he proceeds further in his daring catechism. — Has he brought more than one life to this castle, that he ventures to intrude among us for the purposes of insult?"

«Gentlemen," said Montrose, «let me implore your patience; a messenger who comes among us for the purpose of embassy, is entitled to freedom of speech, and a safe conduct. And since Sir Duncan Campbell is so pressing, I care not if I inform him, for his guidance,

that he is in an assembly of the King's loyal subjects, convoked by me, in his Majesty's name and authority, and as empowered by his Majesty's royal commission."

«We are to have, then, I presume," said Sir Duncan Campbell, «a civil war in all its forms? I have been too long a soldier to view its approach with anxiety; but it would have been for my Lord of Montrose's honour, if, in this matter, he had consulted his own ambition less, and the peace of the country more."

Those consulted their own ambition and self-interest, Sir Duncan," answered Montrose, «who brought the country to the pass in which it now stands, and rendered necessary the sharp remedies which we are now reluctantly about to use."

«And what rank among these self-seekers," said Sir Duncan Campbell, «shall we assign to a noble Earl, so violently attached to the Covenant, that he was the first, in 1639, to cross the Tweed, wading middle deep at the head of his regiment, to charge the royal forces? It was the same, I think, who imposed the Covenant upon the burgesses and Colleges of Aberdeen, at the point of sword and pike."

«I understand your taunt, Sir Duncan," said Montrose, temperately; «and I can only add, that if sincere repentance can make amends for

youthful error, and for yielding to the artful representation of ambitious hypocrites, I shall be pardoned for the crimes with which you taunt me. I am here, with my sword in my hand, willing to spend the best blood of my body to make amends for my error, and mortal man can do no more."

«Well, my lord," said Sir Duncan, «I shall be sorry to carry back this language to the Marquis of Argyle. I had it in farther charge from the Marquis, that, to prevent the bloody feuds which must necessarily follow a Highland war, his lordship will be contented if terms of truce could be arranged to the north of the Highland line, as there is ground enough in Scotland to fight upon without neighbours destroying each other's families and inheritances."

«It is a peaceful proposal," said Montrose, smiling, «such as it should be, coming from one whose actions have always been more peaceful than his measures. Yet, if the terms of such a truce could be equally fixed, and if we can obtain security, — for that, Sir Duncan, is indispensible, — that your Marquis will observe these terms with strict fidelity, I, for my part, should be content to leave peace behind us, since we must needs carry war before us. But, Sir Duncan, you are too old and experienced a soldier for us to permit you to remain

in our leaguer, and witness our proceedings; we shall, therefore, when you have refreshed yourself, recommend your speedy return to Inverary, and we shall send with you a gentleman on our part, to adjust the terms of the Highland armistice, in case the Marquis shall be found serious in proposing such a measure." Sir Duncan Campbell assented by a bow.

«My Lord of Menteith," continued Montrose, «will you have the goodness to attend Sir Duncan Campbell, of Ardenvohr, while we determine who shall return with him to his Chief. M'Aulay will permit us to request that he be entertained with suitable hospitality."

„I will give orders for that," said Allan Stuart, rising and coming forward. «I love Sir Duncan Campbell; we have been joint sufferers in former days, and I do not forget it now."

«My Lord of Menteith," said Sir Duncan Campbell, «I am grieved to see you, at your early age, engaged in such desperate and rebellious courses."

„I am young," answered Menteith, «yet old enough to distinguish between right and wrong, between loyalty and rebellion; and the sooner a good course is begun, the longer and the better have I a chance of running it."

«And you too, my friend, Allan M'Auley," said Sir Duncan, taking his hand; «must we

also call each other enemies, that have been so often allied against a common foe?" Then turning round to the meeting, he said, «Farewell, gentlemen; there are so many of you to whom I wish well, that your rejection of all terms of mediation gives me deep affliction. May Heaven," he said, looking upwards, «judge between our motives, and those of the movers of this civil commotion!"

«Amen," said Montrose; «to that tribunal we all submit us."

Sir Duncan Campbell left the hall, accompanied by Allan M'Auley and Lord Menteith. «There goes a true-bred Campbell," said Montrose, as the envoy departed, «for they are ever fair and false."

«Pardon me, my lord," said Evan Dhu; «hereditary enemy as I am to their name, I have ever found the Knight of Ardenvohr brave in war, honest in peace, and true in council."

«Of his own disposition," said Montrose, «such he is undoubtedly; but he now acts as the organ or mouth-piece of his chief, the Marquis, the falsest man that ever drew breath. And, M'Aulay," he continued, in a whisper to his host, «lest he should make some impression upon the inexperience of Menteith, or the singular disposition of your brother, you had better send music into their chamber, to pre-

vent his inveigling them into any private conference."

„The devil a musician have I," answered M'Aulay, „excepting the piper, who has nearly broke his wind by an ambitious contention for superiority with three of his own craft; but I can send Annot Lyle and her harp." And he left the apartment to give orders accordingly.

Meanwhile a warm discussion took place, who should undertake the perilous task of returning with Sir Duncan to Inverary. To the higher dignitaries, accustomed to consider themselves upon an equality even with M'Callum More, this was an office not to be proposed; unto others who could not plead the same excuse, it was altogether unacceptable. One would have thought Inverary had been the Valley of the Shadow of Death, the inferior chiefs shewed such reluctance to approach it. After a considerable hesitation, the plain reason was at length spoken out, namely, that whatever Highlander should undertake an office so distasteful to M'Callum More, he would be sure to treasure the offence in his remembrance, and one day or other to make him bitterly repent of it.

In this dilemma, Montrose, who considered the proposed armistice as a mere stratagem on the part of Argyle, although he had not ventured bluntly to reject it in presence of those whom

it concerned so nearly, resolved to impose the danger and dignity upon Captain Dalgetty, who had neither clan nor estate in the Highlands upon which the wrath of Argyle could wreak itself.

«But I have a neck though," said Dalgetty, bluntly; «and what if he chuses to avenge himself upon that? I have known a case where an honourable ambassador has been hanged as a spy before now. Neither did the Romans use ambassadors much more mercifully at the siege of Capua, although I read that they only cut off their hands and noses, put out their eyes, and suffered them to depart in peace."

«By my honour, Captain Dalgetty," said Montrose, «should the Marquis, contrary to the rules of war, dare to practise any atrocity against you, you may depend upon my taking such signal vengeance that all Scotland shall ring of it."

„That will do but little for Dalgetty," returned the Captain; «but corragio! as the Spaniard says. With the Land of Promise full in view, the Moor of Drumthwacket, *mea paupera regna*, as we said at Mareschal College, I will not refuse your excellency's commission, being conscious it becomes a cavalier of honour to obey his commander's orders, in defiance both of gibbet and sword."

«Gallantly resolved," said Montrose; «and if you will come apart with me I will furnish you with the conditions to be laid before M'Callum More, upon which we are willing to grant him a truce for his Highland dominions."

With these we need not trouble our readers. They were of an evasive nature, calculated to meet a proposal which Montrose considered to have been made only for the purpose of gaining time. When he had put Captain Dalgetty in complete possession of his instructions, and when that worthy, making his military obeisance, was near the door of his apartment, Montrose made him a sign to return.

«I presume," said he, «I need not remind an officer who has served under the Great Gustavus, that a little more is required of a person sent with a flag of truce than mere discharge of his instructions, and that his general will expect from him on his return some account of the state of the enemies affairs, as far as they come under his observation. In short, Captain Dalgetty, you must be *un peu clair-voyant.*"

«Ah ha! your Excellency," said the Captain, twisting his hard features into an inimitable expression of cunning and intelligence, «if they do not put my head in a poke, which I have known practised upon honourable soldados who have been suspected to come upon such errands

as the present, your Excellency may rely on a preceese narration of whatever Dugald Dalgetty shall hear or see, were it even how many turns of tune there are in M'Callum More's pibroch, or how many checks in the sett of his plaid and trews."

«Enough," answered Montrose; «farewell, Captain Dalgetty, and as they say that a lady's mind is always expressed in her postscript, so I would have you think that the most important part of your commission lies in what I have last said to you."

Dalgetty once more grinned intelligence, and withdrew to victual his charger and himself, for the fatigues of his approaching mission.

At the door of the stable, for Gustavus always claimed his first care, he met Angus M'Aulay and Sir Miles Musgrave, who had been looking at his horse; and, after praising his points and carriage, both united in strongly dissuading the Captain from taking an animal of such value with him upon his present very fatiguing journey.

Angus painted in the most alarming colours the roads, or rather wild tracts, by which it would be necessary for him to travel into Argyleshire, and the wretched huts or bathies where he would be condemned to pass the night, and where no forage could be procured for his

horse, unless he could eat the stumps of old heather. In short, he pronounced it absolutely impossible that, after undertaking such a pilgrimage, the animal could be in any case for military service. The Englishman strongly confirmed all that Angus had said, and gave himself body and soul to the devil, if he thought it was not an act little short of absolute murder to carry a horse worth a farthing into such a waste and inhospitable desart. Captain Dalgetty for an instant looked steadily, first at one of the gentlemen and next at the other, and then asked them, as if in a state of indecision, what they would advise him to do with Gustavus under such circumstances.

«By the hand of my father, my dear friend," answered M'Aulay, «if you leave the beast in my keeping, you may rely on his being fed and sorted according to his worth and quality, and that upon your happy return, you will find him as sleek as an onion boiled in butter."

«Or," said Sir Miles Musgrave, «if this worthy cavalier chuses to part with his charger for a reasonable sum, I have some part of the silver candlesticks still dancing the heys in my purse, which I shall be very willing to transfer to his."

«In brief, mine honourable friends," said Captain Dalgetty, again eyeing them both with an air of comic penetration, „I find it would

not be altogether unacceptable to either of you to have some token to remember the old soldier by, in case it shall please M'Callum More to hang him up at the gate of his own castle. And doubtless it would be no small satisfaction to me, in such an event, that a noble and loyal cavalier like Sir Miles Musgrave, or a worthy and hospitable chieftain like our excellent landlord, should act as my executor."

Both hastened to protest that they had no such object, and insisted again upon the impassable character of the Highland paths. Angus M'Aulay mumbled over a number of hard Gaelic names, descriptive of the difficult passes, precipices, corries, and beals, through which he said the road lay to Inverary, when old Donald, who had now entered, sanctioned his master's account of these difficulties, by holding up his hands, and elevating his eyes, and shaking his head at every gutteral which M'Aulay pronounced. But all this did not move the inflexible Captain.

«My worthy friends," said he, „Gustavus is not new to the dangers of travelling, and the mountains of Bohemia, (no disparagement to the beals and corries Mr Angus is pleased to mention, and of which Sir Miles, who never saw them, confirms the horrors,) these mountains may compete with the vilest roads in Europe.

In fact, my horse hath a most excellent and social quality, for although he cannot pledge me in my cup, yet we share our loaf between us, and it will be hard if he suffers famine where cakes or bannocks are to be found. And, to cut this matter short, I beseech you, my good friends, to observe the state of Sir Duncan Campbell's palfrey, which stands in that stall before us, fat and fair; and, in return for your anxiety on my account, I give you my honest asseveration, that while we travel the same road, both that palfrey and his rider shall lack food before either Gustavus or I."

Having said this, he filled a large measure with corn, and walked up with it to his charger, who, by his low whinnying neigh, his pricked ears, and his pawing, shewed how close the alliance was betwixt him and his rider. Nor did he taste his corn until he had returned his master's caresses by licking his hands and face. After this interchange of greeting, the steed began to his provender with an eager dispatch, which shewed old military habits; and the master, after looking on the animal with great complacency for about five minutes, said, — «Much good may it do your honest heart, Gustavus; — now must I go and lay in provant myself for the campaign."

He then departed, having first saluted the

Englishman and Angus M'Aulay, who remained looking at each other for some time in silence, and then burst out into a fit of laughter.

«That fellow," said Sir Miles Musgrave, «is formed to go through the world."

«I shall think so too," said M'Aulay, «if he can slip through M'Callum More's fingers as easily as he has done through ours."

«Do you think," said the Englishman, «that the Marquis will not respect, in Captain Dalgetty's person, the laws of civilized war?"

«No more than I would respect a Lowland proclamation," said Angus M'Aulay, «But come along, it is time I were returning to my guests."

CHAPTER IX.

——— In a rebellion,
When what's not meet, but what must be, was law
Then were they chosen; in a better hour,
Let what is meet be said it must be meet,
And throw their power i'the dust.

Coriolanus.

In a small apartment, remote from the rest of the guests assembled at the castle, Sir Duncan Campbell was presented with every species of refreshment, and respectfully attended by Lord Menteith, and by Allan M'Aulay. His discourse with the latter turned upon a sort of hunting campaign, in which they had been engaged together against the Children of the Mist, with whom the Knight of Ardenvohr, as well as the M'Aulays, had a deadly and irreconcilable feud. Sir Duncan, however, speedily en-

deavoured to lead back the conversation to the subject of his present errand to the castle of Darnlinvarach.

«It grieved him to the very heart," he said, «to see that friends and neighbours, who should stand shoulder to shoulder, were likely to be engaged hand to hand in a cause which so little concerned them. What signifies it," he said, «to the Highland chiefs, whether King or Parliament got uppermost? Were it not better to let them settle their own differences without interference, while the chiefs in the mean time took the opportunity of establishing their own authority in a manner not to be called in question hereafter by either King or Parliament? He reminded Allan M'Aulay that the measures taken in the last reign to settle the peace, as was alleged of the Highlands, were in fact levelled at the patriarchal power of the chieftains, — and be mentioned the celebrated settlement of the Fife undertakers, as they were called, in the Lewis, as part of a deliberate plan, formed to introduce strangers among the Celtic tribes, to destroy by degrees their ancient customs and mode of government, and to despoil them of the inheritance of their fathers. And yet," he continued, addressing Allan, «it is for the purpose of giving despotic authority to the monarch by whom these designs have been nur-

sed, that so many Highland chiefs are upon the point of quarrelling with, and drawing the sword against their neighbours, allies, and ancient confederates."

«It is to my brother," said Allan, «it is to the eldest son of my father's house that the Knight of Ardenvohr must address these remonstrances. I am, indeed, the brother of Angus; but in being so, I am only the first of his clansmen, and bound to shew an example to the others by my chearful and ready obedience to his commands."

„The cause also," said Lord Menteith, interposing, „is far more general than Sir Duncan Campbell seems to suppose it. It is neither limited to Saxon nor to Gael, to mountain nor to strath, to Highlands nor to Lowlands. The question is, if we will continue to be governed by the unlimited authority assumed by a set of persons in no respect superior to ourselves, instead of returning to the natural government of the Prince against whom they have rebelled. And respecting the interest of the Highlands in particular," he added, «I crave Sir Duncan Campbell's pardon for my plainness; but it seems very clear to me, that the only effect produced by the present usurpation, will be the agrandisement of one overgrown clan at the ex-

pence of every independent chief in the Highlands."

„I will not reply to you, my lord," said Sir Duncan Campbell, «because I know your prejudices, and from whom they are borrowed; yet you will pardon my saying, that being at the head of a rival branch of the House of Graham, I have both read of and known an Earl of Menteith who would have disdained to have been tutored in politics, or to have been commanded in war, by an Earl of Montrose."

„You will find it in vain, Sir Duncan," said Lord Menteith, haughtily, «to set my vanity in arms against my principles. The King gave my ancestors their title and rank; and these shall never prevent my acting, in the Royal cause, under any one who is better qualified than myself to be a commander in chief. Least of all, shall any miserable jealousy prevent me from placing my hand and sword under the guidance of the bravest, the most loyal, the most heroic spirit among our Scottish nobility."

«Pity," said Sir Duncan Campbell, „that you cannot add to his panegyric the farther epithets of the most steady, and the most consistent. But I have no purpose of debating these points with you, my lord," waving his hand, as if to

avoid further discussion; «the die is cast with you; allow me only to express my sorrow for the disastrous fate to which Angus M'Aulay's natural rashness, and your lordship's influence, are dragging my gallant friend Allan here, with his father's clan, and many a brave man besides."

«The die is cast for us all, Sir Duncan," replied Allan, looking gloomy; «the iron hand of destiny branded our fate upon our fore-head long ere we could form a wish, or raise a finger in our own behalf. Were this otherwise, by what means does the Seer ascertain the future from those shadowy presages which haunt his waking and his sleeping eye? Nought can be foreseen but that which is certain to happen."

Sir Duncan Campbell was about to reply, and the darkest and most contested point of metaphysics might have been brought into discussion betwixt two Highland disputants, when the door opened, and Annot Lyle, with her clairshach in her hand, entered the apartment. The freedom of a Highland maiden was in her step and in her eye; for, bred up in the closest intimacy with the Laird of M'Aulay and his brother, with Lord Menteith, and other young men who frequented Darnlinvarach, she possessed none of that timidity which a female edu-

cated chiefly among her own sex would either have felt, or thought necessary to assume, upon an occasion like the present.

Her dress partook of the antique, for new fashions seldom penetrated into the Highlands, nor would they easily have found their way to a castle inhabited chiefly by men whose sole occupation was war, and the chase. Yet Annot's garments were not only becoming, but even rich, Her open jacket, with a high collar, was composed of blue cloth, richly embroidered, and had silver clasps to fasten, when it pleased the wearer. Its sleeves, which were wide, came no lower than the elbow, and terminated in a golden fringe; under this upper coat, if it can be so termed, she wore an under dress of blue satin, also richly embroidered, but which was several shades lighter in colour than the upper garment. The petticoat was formed of tartan silk, in the set, or pattern, of which the colour of blue greatly predominated, so as to remove the tawdry effect too frequently produced in tartan, by the mixture and strong opposition of colours. An antique silver chain hung round her neck, and supported the *wrest*, or key with which she tuned her instrument. A small ruff rose above her collar, and was secured by a broach of some value, an old keep-sake from Lord Menteith. Her profusion of light hair al-

most hid her laughing eyes, while, with a smile and a blush, she mentioned that she had M'Aulay's directions to ask them if they chose music. Sir Duncan Campbell gazed with considerable surprise and interest at the lovely apparition which thus interrupted his debate with Allan M'Aulay.

«Can this," he said to him in a whisper, «a creature so beautiful and elegant, be a domestic musician of your brother's establishment?"

„By no means," answered Allan, hastily yet with some hesitation; «she is a —— a — near relation of our family — and treated," he added, more firmly, «as an adopted daughter of our father's house."

As he spoke thus, he arose from his seat, and with that air of courtesy which every Highlander can assume when it suits him to practise it, he resigned it to Annot, and offered to her, at the same time, whatever refreshments the table afforded, with an assiduity which was probably designed to give Sir Duncan an impression of her rank and consequence. If such was Allan's purpose, however, it was unnecessary. Sir Duncan kept his eyes fixed upon Annot with an expression of much deeper interest than could have arisen from any impression that she was a person of consequence. Annot even felt embar-

rassed under the old knight's steady gaze; and it was not without considerable hesitation, that, tuning her instrument, and receiving an assenting look from Lord Menteith and Allan, she executed the following ballad, which our friend, Mr Secundus M'Pherson, whose goodness we had before to acknowledge, has thus translated into the English tongue:

THE ORPHAN MAID.

November's hail-cloud drifts away,
November's sun-beam wan
Looks coldly on the castle grey,
When forth comes Lady Anne.

The orphan by the oak was set,
Her arms, her feet, were bare,
The hail-drops had not melted yet,
Amid her raven hair.

„And, dame," she said, «by all the ties
That child and mother know,
Aid one who never knew these joys,
Relieve an orphan's woe."

The lady said, «An orphan's state
Is hard and sad to bear;
Yet worse the widow'd mother's fate,
Who mourns both lord and heir.

«Twelve times the rolling year has sped,
Since, while from vengeance wild
Of fierce Strathallan's chief I fled,
Forth's eddies whelmed my child.»

«Twelve times the year its course has born;»
The wandering maid replied,
«Since fishers on St Bridget's morn
Drew nets on Campsie side.

«St Bridget sent no scaly spoil;
An infant, well nigh dead,
They saved, and reared in want and toil,
To beg from you her bread."

That orphan maid the lady kissed, —
«My husband's looks you bear;
Saint Bridget and her morn be blessed!
You are his widow's heir."

They've robed that maid, so poor and pale,
In silk and sandals rare;
And pearls, for drops of frozen hail,
Are glistening in her hair. *

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* The admirers of pure Celtic antiquity, notwithstanding the elegance of the above translation, may be desirous to see a literal version from the original Gaelic, which we therefore subjoin, and have only to add, that the original is deposited with Mr Jedediah Cleishbotham.

Literal Translation.

The hail-blast had drifted away upon the wings of the gale of autumn. The sun looked from between the clouds, pale as the wounded hero who rears his head feebly on the heath when the roar of battle hath passed over him.

Finele, the Lady of the Castle, came forth to see her maidens pass to the herds with their leglins.

There sat an orphan maiden beneath the old oak-tree of appointment. The withered

While the song proceeded, Lord Menteith observed, with some surprise, that it appeared to produce a much deeper effect upon the mind of Sir Duncan Campbell, than he could possibly have anticipated from his age and character. He well knew that the Highlander of that period possessed a much greater sensibility both for tale and song than was found among their Lowland neighbours; but even this, he thought,

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leaves fell around her, and her heart was more withered than they.

The parent of the ice (poetically taken for the frost) still congealed the hail-drops in her hair; they were like the specks of white ashes on the twisted boughs of the blackened and half-consumed oak.

And the maiden said, „Give me comfort, Lady, I am an orphan child." And the Lady replied, „How can I give that which I have not? I am the widow of a slain lord, — the mother of a perished child. When I fled in my fear from the vengeance of my husband's foe, our bark was overwhelmed in the tide, and my infant perished. This was on Saint Bridget's morn, near the strong Lyns of Campsie. May ill luck light

hardly accounted for the embarrassment with which the old man withdrew his eyes from the songstress, as if unwilling to suffer them to rest on an object so interesting. Still less was it to be expected, that features which expressed pride, stern common sense, and the austere habit of authority, should have been so much agitated by so trivial a circumstance. As the Chief's brow became clouded, he drooped his large shaggy grey eye-brows until they almost concealed his eyes, on the lids of which something like a tear

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upon the day." And the maiden answered, «It was on Saint Bridget's morn, and twelve harvests before this time, that the fishermen of Campsie drew in their nets neither grilse nor salmon, but an infant half dead, who hath since lived in misery, and must die, unless she is now aided." And the Lady answered, «Blessed be Saint Bridget and her morn, for these are the dark eyes and the falcon look of my slain lord; and thine shall be the inheritance of his widow." And she called for her waiting attendants, and she bade them clothe that maiden in silk and in samite; and the pearls which they have wove among her black tresses, were whiter than the frozen hail-drops.

might be seen to glisten. He remained silent and fixed in the same posture for a minute or two, after the last note had ceased to vibrate. He then raised his head, and having looked at Annot Lyle, as if about to speak to her, he as suddenly changed that purpose, and was about to address Allan, when the door opened, and the Lord of the Castle made his appearance.

CHAPTER X.

Dark on their journey lour'd the gloomy day,
Wild were the hills, and doubtful grew the way;
More dark, more gloomy, and more doubtful, shew'd
The mansion, which received them from the road.

THE TRAVELLERS, a Romance.

ANGUS M'AULAY was charged with a message which he seemed to find some difficulty in communicating; for it was not till after he had framed his speech several different ways, and blundered all, that he succeeded in letting Sir Duncan Campbell know that the cavalier who was to accompany him was waiting in readiness, and that all was prepared for his return to Inverary. Sir Duncan Campbell rose up very indignantly; the affront which this message implied imme-

diately driving out of his recollection the sensibility which had been awakened by the music.

«I little expected this," he said, looking indignantly at Angus M'Aulay. «I little thought that there was a chief in the West Highlands, who, at the pleasure of a Saxon, would have bid the Knight of Ardenvohr leave his castle when the sun was declining from the meridian, and ere the second cup had been filled. But farewell, sir, the food of a churl does not satisfy the appetite; when I next revisit Darnlinvarach, it shall be with a naked sword in one hand and a fire-brand in the other."

«And if you so come," said Angus, «I pledge myself to meet you fairly, though you brought five hundred Campbells at your back, and to afford you and them such entertainment that you shall not again complain of the hospitality of Darnlinvarach."

«Threatened men," said Sir Duncan, «live long. Your turn for gasconading, Laird of M'-Aulay, is too well known, that men of honour should regard your vaunts. To you, my lord, and to Allan, who have supplied the place of my churlish host, I leave my thanks. And to you, pretty mistress," he said, addressing Annot Lyle, «this little token, of having opened

a fountain which hath been dry for many a year." So saying he left the apartment, and commanded his attendants to be summoned. Angus M'Aulay, equally embarrassed and incensed at the charge of inhospitality, which was the greatest possible affront to a Highlander, did not follow Sir Duncan to the court-yard, where mounting his palfrey, which was in readiness, followed by six mounted attendants, and accompanied by the noble Captain Dalgetty, who had also awaited him, holding Gustavus ready for action, though he did not draw his girths and mount till Sir Duncan appeared, the whole cavalcade left the castle.

The journey was long and toilsome, but without any of the extreme privations which the Laird of M'Aulay had prophesied. In truth, Sir Duncan was very cautious to avoid those nearer and more secret paths, by means of which the county of Argyle was accessible from the westward; for his relation and chief, the Marquis, was used to boast, that he would not for a hundred thousand crows any mortal should know the passes by which an armed force could penetrate into his country.

Sir Duncan Campbell, therefore, rather shunned the Highlands, and falling into the low country, made for the nearest seaport, where

he had several half-decked gallies, or birlings, as they were called, at his command. In one of these they embarked, with Gustavus in company, who was so seasoned to adventure, that land and sea seemed as indifferent to him as to his master.

The wind being favourable, they pursued their way rapidly with sails and oars; and early the next morning it was announced to Captain Dalgetty, then in a small cabin under the half-deck, that the galley was under the walls of Sir Duncan Campbell's castle.

Ardenvohr, accordingly, rose high above him, when he came upon the deck of the galley. It was a gloomy square tower, of considerable size and great height, situated upon a headland projecting into the salt water lake, or arm of the sea, which they had entered on the preceding evening. A wall, with flanking towers at each angle, surrounded the castle to landward; but towards the lake, it was built so near the brink of the precipice as only to leave room for a battery of seven guns, designed to protect the fortress from any insult from that side, although situated too high to be of any effectual use according to the modern system of warfare.

The eastern sun, rising behind the old tower, flung its shadow far on the lake, darkening the

deck of the galley, on which Captain Dalgetty now walked, waiting with some impatience the signal to land. Sir Duncan Campbell, as he was informed by his attendants, was already within the walls of the castle; but no one encouraged the captain's proposal of following him ashore, until, as they stated, they should receive the direct permission or order of the Knight of Ardenvohr.

In a short time afterwards the mandate arrived, while a boat, with a piper in the bow, bearing the Knight of Ardenvohr's crest in silver upon his left arm, and playing with all his might the family march, entitled The Campbells are Coming, arrived to conduct the envoy of Montrose to the castle of Ardenvohr. The distance between the galley and the beach was so short as scarce to require the assistance of the eight sturdy rowers, in bonnets, short coats, and trews, whose efforts sent the boat to the little creek in which they usually landed, before one could have conceived that it had left the side of the birling. Two of the boatmen, in spite of Dalgetty's resistance, horsed the captain on the back of a third Highlander, and wading through the surf with him, landed him high and dry upon the beach beneath the castle rock. In the face of this rock there appeared

something like the entrance of a low-browed cavern, towards which the assistants were preparing to hurry our friend Dalgetty, when, shaking himself loose from them with some difficulty, he insisted upon seeing Gustavus safely landed before he proceeded one step farther. The Highlanders could not comprehend what he meant, until one who had picked up a little English, or rather Lowland Scotch, exclaimed, «Houts! its a' about her horse, ta useless baste." Further remonstrance on the part of Captain Dalgetty was interrupted by the appearance of Sir Duncan Campbell himself, from the mouth of the cavern which we have described, for the purpose of inviting Captain Dalgetty to accept of the hospitality of Ardenvohr, pledging his honour, at the same time, that Gustavus should be treated as became the hero from whom he derived his name, not to mention the important person to whom he now belonged. Notwithstanding this satisfactory guarantee, Captain Dalgetty would still have hesitated, such was his anxiety to witness the fate of his companion Gustavus, had not two Highlanders seized him by the arms, two more pushed him on behind, while a fifth exclaimed, «Hout awa' wi' the daft Sasenach! does she no hear the laird bidding her up to her ain castle, and is na that very mickle honour for the like o' her?"

Thus impelled, Captain Dalgetty could only keep a reverted eye towards the galley in which he had left the partner of his military toils. In a few minutes afterwards he found himself involved in the total darkness of a staircase, which, entering from the low-browed cavern which we have mentioned, winded upwards through the entrails of the living rock.

«The cursed Highland salvages," muttered the captain, half aloud; «what is to become of me if Gustavus, the namesake of the invincible Lion of the Protestant league, should be lamed among their untenty hands."

«Have no fear of that," said the voice of Sir Duncan, who was nearer to him than he imagined; «my men are accustomed to handle horses, both in embarking and dressing them, and you will soon see Gustavus as safe as when you last dismounted from his back."

Captain Dalgetty knew the world too well to offer any further remonstrance, whatever uneasiness he might suppress within his own bosom. A step or two higher up the stair shewed light and a door, and an iron-grated wicket led him out upon a gallery cut in the open face of the rock, extending a space of about six or eight yards, until he reached a second door, where

the path re-entered the rock, and which was also defended by an iron portcullis. «An admirable traverse," observed the Captain; «and if commanded by a field-piece, or even a few musquets, quite sufficient to ensure the place against a storming party."

Sir Duncan Campbell made no answer at the time; but, the moment afterwards, when they had entered the second cavern, he struck with the stick which he had in his hand, first on the one side, and then on the other of the wicket, and the sullen ringing sound which replied to the blows, made Captain Dalgetty sensible that there was a gun placed on each side for the purpose of raking the gallery through which they had passed, although the embrasures, through which they might be fired on occasion, were masqued on the outside with sods and loose stones. Having ascended the second stair-case, they found themselves again on an open platform and gallery, exposed to a fire both of musquetry and wall-guns, if, being come with hostile intent, they had ventured farther. A third flight of steps, cut in the rock like the former, but not caverned over, led them finally into the battery at the foot of the tower. This last stair also was narrow and steep, and, not to mention the

fire which might be directed on it from above, one or two resolute men, with pikes and battle-axes, could have made the pass good against hundreds, for the stair-case would not admit two persons abreast, and was not secured by any sort of balustrade or railing from the sheer and abrupt precipice, on the foot of which the tide now rolled with a voice of thunder. So that, under the jealous precautions used to secure this ancient Celtic fortress, a person of weak nerves, and a brain liable to become dizzy, might have found it something difficult to have achieved the entrance to the castle, even supposing no resistance had been offered.

Captain Dalgetty, too old a soldier to feel such tremors, was no sooner arrived in the court-yard, than he protested to God, the defences of Sir Duncans castle reminded him more of the notable fortress of Spandau, situated in the March of Brandenburgh, than of any place whilk it had been his fortune to defend in the course of his travels. Nevertheless, he criticised considerably the mode of placing the guns on the battery we have noticed, observing, that «where cannon were perched, like to scarts or sea gulls, on the top of a rock, he had ever observed that they astonished more

by their noise than they dismayed by the damage which they occasioned."

Sir Duncan, without replying, conducted the soldier into the tower; the defences of which were a portcullis and iron-clenched oaken door, the thickness of the wall being the space between them. He had no sooner arrived in a hall hung with tapestry, than the Captain prosecuted his military criticism. It was indeed suspended by the sight of an excellent breakfast, of which he partook with great avidity; but no sooner had he secured this meal, than he made the tour of the apartment, examining the ground around the castle very carefully from each window in the room. He then returned to his chair, and throwing himself back into it at his length, stretched out one manly leg, and tapping his jack-boot with the riding-rod which he carried in his hand, after the manner of a half-bred man who affects ease in the society of his betters, he delivered his unasked opinion as follows: — «This house of yours, now, Sir Duncan, is a very pretty defensible sort of a tenement, and yet it is hardly such as a cavaliero of honour would expect to maintain his credit by holding out for many days. For, Sir Duncan, if it pleases you to notice, your house is over-crowed,

and slighted, or commanded, as we military men say, by yonder round hillock to the land ward, whereon an enemy might stell such a battery of cannon as would make ye glad to beat a chamade within forty-eight hours, unless it pleased the Lord extraordinarily to shew mercy."

«There is no road," replied Sir Duncan, somewhat shortly, «by which cannon can be brought against Ardenvohr. The swamps and morasses would scarce carry your horse and yourself, excepting by such paths as could be rendered impassable within a few hours."

«Sir Duncan," said the Captain, «it is your pleasure to suppose so; and yet we martial men say, that where there is a sea-coast there is a naked side, seeing that cannon and munition, where they cannot be transported by land, may be right easily brought by sea near to the place where they are to be put in action. Neither is a castle, however secure in its situation, to be accounted altogether invincible, or, as they say, impregnable; for I protest t'ye, Sir Duncan, that I have known twentyfive men, by the mere surprise and audacity of the attack, win, at point of pike, as strong a hold as this of Ardenvohr, and put to the

sword, captivate, or hold to the ransom, the defenders, being ten times their own number."

Notwithstanding Sir Duncan Campbell's knowledge of the world, and his power of concealing his internal emotion, he appeared piqued and hurt at these reflections, which the Captain made with the most unconscious gravity, having merely selected the subject of conversation as one upon which he thought himself capable of shining, and, as they say, of laying down the law, without exactly recollecting that the topic might not be equally agreeable to his landlord.

«To cut this matter short," said Sir Duncan, with an expression of voice and countenance somewhat agitated, «it is unnecessary for you to tell me, Captain Dalgetty, that a castle may be stormed if it is not valorously defended, or surprised if it is not heedfully watched. I trust this poor house of mine will not be found in any of these predicaments, should even Captain Dalgetty himself chuse to beleaguer it."

«For all that, Sir Duncan," answered the persevering commander," «I would premonish you, as a friend, to trace out a sconce upon that round hill, with a good graffe or ditch,

whilk may be easily accomplished by compelling the labour of the boors in the vicinity; it being the custom of the valorous Gustavus Adolphus to fight as much by the spade and shovel, as by sword, pike, and musquet. Also I would advise you to fortify the said sconce, not only by a foussie or graffe, but also by certain stackets or palisades." — (Here Sir Duncan, becoming impatient, left the apartment, the Captain following him to the door, and raising his voice as he retreated, until he was fairly out of hearing.) — «The whilk stackets or palisades should be artificially framed with re-entering angles and loop-holes, or crenelles, for musquetry, whereof it shall arise that the foemen —— The Highland brute! the old Highland brute! They are as proud as peacocks, and as obstinate as tups — and here he has missed an opportunity of making his house as pretty an irregular fortification as an invading army ever broke their teeth upon. But I see," he continued, looking down from the window upon the bottom of the precipice, «they have got Gustavus safe ashore — proper fellow! I would know that toss of his head among a whole squadron. I must go to see what they are to make of him."

He had no sooner reached, however, the court to the seaward, and put himself in the

act of descending the stair-case, than two Highland sentinels, advancing their Lochaber axes, gave him to understand that this was a service of danger.

«Diavolo!“ said the soldier, «and I have got no pass-word. I could not speak a syllable of their salvage gibberish, an it were to save me from the provost-marshal.”

„I will be your surety,” said Sir Duncan, «Captain Dalgetty,” who had again approached him without his observing from whence; «and we will go together, and see how your favourite charger is accommodated.”

He conducted him accordingly down the stair-case to the beach, and from thence by a short turn behind a large rock, which concealed the stables and other offices belonging to the castle. Captain Dalgetty became sensible, at the same time, that the side of the castle to the land was rendered totally inaccessible by a ravine, partly natural and partly scarped with great care and labour, so as to be only passed by a drawbridge. Still, however, the captain insisted, notwithstanding the triumphant air with which Sir Duncan pointed out his defences, that a sconce should be erected on Drumsnab, the round eminence to the east

of the castle, in respect the house might be annoyed from thence by burning bullets full of fire, shot out of cannon, according to the curious invention of Stephen Bathian, King of Poland, where by that prince utterly ruined the great Muscovite city of Moscow. This invention, Captain Dalgetty owned, he had not yet witnessed, but observed, «that it would give him particular delectation to witness the same put to the proof against Ardenvohr, or any other castle of similar strength;" observing, «that so curious an experiment could not but afford the greatest delight to all admirers of the military art."

Sir Duncan Campbell diverted this conversation by carrying the soldier into his stables, and suffering him to arrange Gustavus according to his own will and pleasure. After this duty had been carefully performed, Captain Dalgetty proposed to return to the castle, observing it was his intention to spend the time betwixt this and dinner, which, he presumed, would come upon the parade about noon, in burnishing his armour, which having sustained some injury from the sea-air, might, he was afraid, seem discreditable in the eyes of M'-Callum More. Yet, while they were returning to the castle, he failed not to warn Sir Dun-

can Campbell against the great injury he might sustain by any sudden onfall of an enemy, whereby his horses, cattle, and granaries might be cut off and consumed, to his great prejudice; wherefore, he again strongly conjured him to construct a sconce upon the round hill called Drumsnab, and offered his own friendly services in lining out the same. To this disinterested advice Sir Duncan only replied by ushering his guest to his apartment, and informing him that the tolling of the castle bell would make him aware when dinner was ready.

CHAPTER XI.

Is this thy castle, Baldwin? — Melancholy
Displays her sable banner from the donjon,
Darkening the whole foam of the surge beneath.
Were I a habitant, to see this gloom
Pollute the face of nature, and to hear
The ceaseless sound of wave, and seabird's scream,
I'd wish me in the hut that poorest peasant
E'er framed, to give him temporary shelter.

Brown.

The gallant Ritt-master would willingly have employed his leisure in studying the exterior of Sir Duncan's castle, and verifying his own military ideas upon the nature of its defences. But a stout sentinel, who mounted guard with a Lochaber-axe at the door of his apartment,

gave him to understand, by very significant signs, that he was in a sort of honourable captivity.

„It is strange," thought the Ritt-master to himself, „how well these salvages understand the rules and practique of war. Who would have pre-supposed their acquaintance with the maxim of the great and godlike Gustavus Adolphus, that a flag of truce should be half a messenger half a spy?" And, having finished burnishing his arms, he sate down patiently to compute how much half a dollar per diem would amount to at the end of a six months campaign; and, when he had settled that problem, proceeded to the more abstruse calculations necessary for drawing up a battalion of two thousand men on the principle of extracting the square root.

From his musings, he was roused by the joyful sound of the dinner-bell, at the sound of which, the Highlander, lately his guard, became his gentleman-usher, and marshalled him to the hall, where a table with four covers bore ample proofs of Highland hospitality. Sir Duncan entered, conducting his lady, a tall, faded, melancholy female, dressed in deep mourning. They were followed by a presbyterian clergyman in his Geneva cloak, and wearing a black silk scull-cap, covering his short hair so close-

ly, that it could scarce be seen at all, so that the unrestricted ears had an undue predominance in the general aspect. This ungraceful fashion was universal at the time, and led partly to the nicknames of roundheads, prick-eared curs, and so forth, which the insolence of the cavaliers liberally bestowed on their political enemies.

Sir Duncan presented his military guest to his lady, who received his technical salutation with a stiff and silent reverence, in which it could scarce be judged whether pride or melancholy had the greater share. The churchman, to whom he was next presented, eyed him with a glance of mingled dislike and curiosity. But the Captain, well accustomed to worse looks from more dangerous persons, cared very little either for those of the lady or of the divine, but bent his whole soul upon assaulting a huge piece of beef, which smoked at the nether end of the table. But the onslaught, as he would have termed it, was delayed until the conclusion of a very long grace, betwixt every section of which Dalgetty handled his knife and fork, as he might have done his musket or pike when going upon action, and as often resigned them unwillingly when the prolix chaplain commenced another clause of his benediction. Sir Dun

can listened with decency, though he was supposed rather to have joined the Covenanters out of devotion to his chief, than real respect for the cause either of liberty or of presbytery, His lady alone attended to the blessing, with symptoms of deep acquiescence.

The meal was performed almost in Carthusian silence; for it was none of Captain Dalgetty's habits to employ his mouth in talking, while it could be more profitably occupied. Sir Duncan was absolutely silent, and the lady and churchman only occasionally exchanged a few words, spoken low, and indistinctly.

But, when the dishes were removed, and their place supplied by liquors of various sorts, Captain Dalgetty no longer had, himself, the same weighty reasons for silence, and began to tire of that of the rest of the company. He commenced a new attack upon his landlord, upon the former ground,

«Touching that round monticle, or hill, or eminence, termed Drumsnab, I would be proud to hold some dialogue with you, Sir Duncan, on the nature of the sconce to be there constructed; and whether the angles thereof should be acute or obtuse — anent whilk I have heard the great Velt-Mareschal Bannier hold a learned

argument with General Tiefenbach during a still-stand of arms."

«Captain Dalgetty," answered Sir Duncan very drily, „it is not our Highland usage to debate military points with strangers. This castle is like to hold out against a stronger enemy than any force which the unfortunate gentlemen we left at Darnlinvarach are able to bring against it."

A deep sigh from the lady accompanied the conclusion of her husband's speech, which seemed to remind her of some painful circumstance.

«He who gave," said the clergyman, addressing her in a solemn tone, «hath taken away. May you, honourable lady, be long enabled to say blessed be his name."

To this exhortation, which seemed intended for her sole behoof, the lady answered by an inclination of her head, more humble than Captain Dalgetty had yet observed her make. Supposing he should now find her in a more conversible humour, he proceeded to accost her.

«It is indubitably very natural that your ladyship should be downcast at the mention of military preparations, whilk I have observed to spread perturbation among women of all na-

tions, and almost all conditions. Nevertheless, Penthesilea, in ancient times, and also Joan of Arc, and others, were of a different kidney. And, as I have learned while I served the Spaniard, the Duke of Alva in former times had the leaguer-lasses who followed his camp marshalled into *tertias*, (whilk we call regiments), and officered and commanded by those of their own feminine, and regulated by a commander-in-chief, called in German Hureweibler, or, as we would say vernacularly, Captain of the Queans. True it is, they were persons not to be named as parallel to your ladyship, being such *quæ quæstum corporibus faciebant*, as we said of Jean Drochiels, at Mareschal-College, the same whom the French term *curtisannes*, and we in Scottish" ——

«The lady will spare you the trouble of further exposition, Captain Dalgetty," said his host, somewhat sternly; to which the clergyman added, «that such discourse better befitted a watch-tower guarded by profane soldiery than the board of an honourable person, and the presence of a lady of quality."

«Craving your pardon, Domine or Doctor, *aut quocunque alio nomine gaudes*, for I would have you to know I have studied polite letters," said the unabashed envoy, filling a great cup of

wine, «I see no ground for your reproof, seeing I did not speak of those *turpes personæ*, as if their occupation or character was a proper subject of conversation for this lady's presence, but simply *per accidens*, as illustrating the matter in hand, namely, their natural courage and audacity, much enhanced, doubtless, by the desperate circumstances of their condition."

«Captain Dalgetty," said Sir Duncan Campbell, «to break short this discourse, I must acquaint you that I have some business to dispatch to-night, in order to enable me to ride with you to-morrow towards Inverara, and therefore" ——

«To ride with this person to-morrow!" replied his lady; «such cannot be your purpose, Sir Duncan, unless you have forgotten that the morrow is a sad anniversary, and dedicated to as sad a solemnity."

«I had not forgotten," answered Sir Duncan; «how is it possible I can ever forget? but the necessity of the times requires I should send this officer onward to Inverara, without loss of time."

«Yet, surely, not that you should accompany him in person," enquired the lady.

«It were better I did,» said Sir Duncan; «yet I can write to the Marquis, and follow on the subsequent day. — Captain Dalgetty, I will dispatch a letter for you, explaining to the Marquis of Argyle your character and commission, with which you will please to prepare to travel to Inverara, early to morrow morning."

«Sir Duncan Campbell," said Dalgetty, «I am doubtless at your discretionary disposal in this matter; not the less, I pray you to remember the blot which will fall upon your own escutcheon, if you do in any ways suffer me, being a commissionate flag of truce, to be circumvented in this matter, whether *clam*, *vi*, *vel precario*; I do not say by your assent to any wrong done to me, but even through absence of any due care on your part to prevent the same."

«You are under the safeguard of my honour, sir," answered Sir Duncan Campbell, «and that is more than a sufficient security. And now," continued he, rising, «I must set the example of retiring."

Dalgetty saw himself under the necessity of following the hint, though the hour was early; but, like a skilful general, he availed himself of every instant of delay which circumstances permitted. «Trusting to your honourable parole,"

said he, filling his cup, «I drink to you, Sir Duncan, and to the continuance of your honourable house." A sigh from Sir Duncan was the only reply. «Also, madam," said the soldier, replenishing the quaigh with all possible dispatch, „I drink to your honourable health, and fulfillment of all your virtuous desires — and, reverend sir, (not forgetting to fit the action to the words,) I fill this cup to the drowning of all unkindness betwixt you and Captain Dalgetty — I should say Major — and, in respect the flagon contains but one cup more, I drink to the health of all honourable cavaliers and brave soldados — and the flask being empty, I am ready, Sir Duncan, to attend your factionary or sentinel to my place of private repose."

He received a formal permission to retire, and an assurance that as the wine seemed to be to his taste, another measure of the same vintage should attend him presently, in order to sooth the hour of his solitude.

No sooner had the Captain reached the apartment than this promise was fulfilled; and, in a short time afterwards, the added comforts of a pasty of red-deer venison rendered him very tolerant both of confinement and want of society. The same domestic, a sort of chamber-

lain, who placed this good cheer in his apartment, delivered to Dalgetty a packet, sealed and tied up with a silken thread, according to the custom of the time, addressed with many forms of respect to the High and Mighty Prince, Archibald, Marquis of Argyle, Lord of Lorne, and so forth. The chamberlain at the same time apprized the Ritt-master, that he must take horse at an early hour for Inverara, where the packet of Sir Duncan would be at once his introduction and his passport. Not forgetting that it was his object to collect information as well as to act as an envoy, and desirous, for his own sake, to ascertain Sir Duncan's reasons for sending him onward without his personal attendance, the Ritt-master enquired at the domestic, with all the precaution that his experience suggested, what were the reasons which detained Sir Duncan at home on the succeeding day. The man, who was from the low country, replied, "that it was the habit of Sir Duncan and his lady to observe as a day of solemn fast and humiliation the anniversary upon which their castle had been taken by surprise, and their children, to the number of four, destroyed cruelly by a band of Highland freebooters during Sir Duncan's absence upon an expedition which the Marquis of Argyle had undertaken against the Macleans of the Isle of Mull."

«Truly,» said the soldier, «your lord and lady have some cause for fast and humiliation. Nevertheless, I will venture to pronounce, that if he had taken the advice of any experienced soldier, having skill in the pratiques of defending places of advantage, he would have built a sconce upon the small hill which is to the left of the drawbrigg. And this I can easily prove to you, mine honest friend; for, holding that pasty to be the castle — what's your name, friend?»

«Lorimer, Sir,» replied the man.

«Here is to your health, honest Lorimer. — I say, Lorimer — holding that pasty to be the main body or citadel of the place to be defended, and taking the marrowbone for the sconce to be erected — —»

«I am sorry, sir,» said Lorimer, interrupting him, «that I cannot stay to hear the rest of your demonstration; but the bell will presently ring. As worthy Mr Graneangowl, the Marquis's own chaplain, does family worship, and only seven of our household out of sixty persons understanding the Scottish tongue, it would misbecome any one of them to be absent, and greatly prejudice me in the opinion of my lady. There are pipes and tobacco, sir, if you please

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to drink a whiff of smoke, and if you want any thing else, it shall be forthcoming two hours hence, when prayers are over." So saying, he left the apartment,

No sooner was he gone, than the heavy toll of the castle-bell summoned its inhabitants together; and was answered by the shrill clamour of the females, mixed with the deeper tones of the men, as, talking Earse at the top of their throats, they hurried from different quarters by a long but narrow gallery, which served as a communication to many rooms, and among others, to that in which Captain Dalgetty was stationed. «There they go as if they were beating to the roll-call," thought the soldier to himself; «if they all attend the parade, I will look out, take a mouthful of fresh air, and make mine own observations on the practicabilities of this place."

Accordingly, when all was quiet, he opened his chamber-door, and prepared to leave it; when, half whistling, half humming a Gaelic tune, he saw his friend with the axe advancing towards him from the distant end of the gallery. To have shewn any want of confidence, would have been at once impolitic, and unbecoming his military character; so the Captain, putting the best face upon his situation he could, whist-

led a Swedish retreat, in a tone still louder than the notes of his centinel; and retreating pace by pace, with an air of indifference, as if his only purpose had been to breathe a little fresh air, he shut the door in the face of his guard, when the fellow had approached within a few paces of him.

Thus disappointed by the vigilance of his centinel, Ritt-master Dalgetty retired to his apartment, where, amid the theoretic calculations of tactics, and the occasional more practical attacks on the flask and pasty, he consumed the evening until it was time to go repose. In the morning, he was summoned by Lorimer at break of day, who gave him to understand, that when he had broken his fast, for which he produced ample materials, his guide and horse were in attendance for his journey to Inverara. After complying with the hospitable hint of the Chamberlain, the soldier proceeded to take horse. In passing through the apartments, he observed that domestics were busily employed in hanging the great hall with black cloth, a ceremony which, he said, he had observed practised when the immortal Gustavus Adolphus lay in state in the Castle of Wolgast, and which, therefore, he opined, was a testimonial of the strictest and deepest mourning.

When Dalgetty mounted his steed, he found himself attended, or perhaps guarded, by five or six Campbells, well armed, commanded by one, who, from the target at his shoulder, and the short cock's-feather in his bonnet, as well as from the state which he took upon himself, claimed the rank of a Duniewassel, or clansman of superior rank; and indeed, from his dignity of deportment, could not stand in a more distant degree of relationship to Sir Duncan, than that of tenth or twelfth cousin at farthest. But it was impossible to extract positive information on this or any other subject, inasmuch as neither this commander nor any of his party spoke English. The Captain rode, and his military attendants walked; but such was their activity, and so numerous the impediments which the nature of the road presented to the equestrian mode of travelling, that far from being retarded by the slowness of their pace, his difficulty was rather in keeping up with his guides. He observed that they occasionally watched him with a sharp eye, as if they were jealous of some effort to escape; and once, as he lingered behind at crossing a brook, one of the gillies began to blow the match of his piece, giving him to understand that he would run some risque in case of an attempt to part company. Dalgetty did not augur much good from

the close watch thus maintained upon his person; but there was no remedy, for an attempt to escape from his attendants in an impervious and unknown country, would have been little short of insanity. He therefore plodded patiently on through a waste and savage wilderness, treading paths which were only known to the shepherds and cattle-drivers, and passing with much more of discomfort than satisfaction many of those sublime combinations of mountainous scenery, which now draw visitors from every corner of England to feast their eyes upon Highland grandeur, and mortify their palates upon Highland fare. At length they arrived on the southern verge of that noble lake upon which Inverara is situated; and a bugle, which the Dunniewassel winded till rock and greenwood rang, served as a signal to a well-manned galley, which, starting from a creek where it lay concealed, received the party on board, including Gustavus; which sagacious quadruped, an experienced traveller both by water and land, walked in and out of the boat with the discretion of a Christian.

Embarked on the bosom of Loch Fine, Captain Dalgetty might have admired one of the grandest scenes which nature affords. He might have noticed the rival rivers Aray and Shiray,

which pay tribute to the lake, each issuing from its own dark and wooded retreat. He might have marked, on the soft and gentle slope that ascends from the shores, the noble old Gothic castle, with its varied outline, embattled walls, towers, and outer and inner courts, which, so far as the picturesque is concerned, presented an aspect much more striking than the present massive and uniform mansion. He might have admired those dark woods which for many a mile surrounded this strong and princely dwelling, and his eye might have dwelt on the picturesque peak of Duniquoich, starting abruptly from the lake, and raising its scathed brow into the mists of middle sky, while a solitary watch-tower, perched on its top like an eagle's nest, gave dignity to the scene by awakening a sense of possible danger. All these, and every other accompaniment of this noble scene, Captain Dalgetty might have marked, if he had been so minded. But, to confess the truth, the gallant captain, who had eaten nothing since day break, was chiefly interested by the smoke which ascended from the castle chimnies, and the expectations which this seemed to warrant of his encountering an abundant stock of provant, as he was wont to call supplies of this nature.

The boat soon approached the rugged pier,

which abutted into the loch from the little town of Inverara, then a rude assemblage of huts, with a very few stone mansions interspersed, stretching upwards from the banks of Loch Fine to the principal gate of the castle, before which a scene presented itself that might easily have quelled a less stout heart, and turned a more delicate stomach, than those of Ritter master Dugald Dalgetty, titular of Drumthwacket.

CHAPTER XII.

For close designs and crooked counsels fit,
Sagacious, bold, and turbulent of wit,
Restless, unfix'd in principle and place,
In pow'r unpleased, impatient in disgrace.

Absalom and Achitophel.

The village of Inverara, now a neat county town, then partook of the rudeness of the seventeenth century, in the miserable appearance of the houses, and the irregularity of the unpaved street. But a stronger and more terrible characteristic of the period appeared in the market-place, which was a space of irregular width, half way betwixt the harbour, or pier, and the frowning castle gate, which terminated with its gloomy arch-way, portcullis, and flankers, the upper end of the vista. Midway this space was erected a rude gibbet, on which hung five dead

bodies, two of which from their dress seemed to have been Lowlanders, and the other three corpses were muffled in their Highland plaids. Two or three women sate under the gallows, who seemed to be mourning and singing the coronach of the deceased, in a low voice. But the spectacle was apparently of too ordinary occurrence to have much interest for the inhabitants at large, who, while they thronged to look at the military figure, the horse of an unusual size, and the burnished panoply of Captain Dalgetty, seemed to bestow no attention whatever on the piteous spectacle which their own market-place afforded.

The envoy of Montrose was not quite so indifferent, and hearing a word or two of English escape from a Highlander of decent appearance, he immediately halted Gustavus and addressed him. «The Provost Marshal has been busy here, my friend. May I crave of you what these delinquents have been justified for?"

He looked towards the gibbet as he spoke, and the Gael comprehending his meaning rather by his action than his words, immediately replied, «Three gentlemen caterans, — God sain them (crossing himself) — twa Sassenach bits o' bodies, that wadna do something M'Callum More bade them;" and turning from Dalgetty

with an air of indifference, away he walked, staying no further question.

Dalgetty shrugged his shoulders and proceeded, for Sir Duncan Campbell's tenth or twelfth cousin had already shewn some signs of impatience.

At the gate of the Castle, another terrible spectacle of feudal power awaited him. Within a stockade or palisado, which seemed lately to have been added to the defences of the gate, and which was protected by two pieces of light artillery, was a small inclosure, where stood a huge block, on which lay an axe. Both were smeared with recent blood, and a quantity of saw-dust strewed around, partly retained and partly obliterated the marks of a very late execution.

As Dalgetty looked on this new object of terror, his principal guide suddenly twitched him by the skirt of his jerkin, and having thus attracted his attention, winked and pointed with his finger to a pole fixed on the stockade, which supported a human head, being that, doubtless, of the late sufferer. There was a leer on the Highlander's face, as he pointed to this ghastly spectacle, which seemed to his fellow-traveller ominous of nothing good.

Dalgetty dismounted from his horse at the gate-way, and Gustavus was taken from him without his being permitted to attend him to the stable according to his custom.

This gave the soldier a pang which the apparatus of death had not conveyed. — «Poor Gustavus," said he to himself, «if anything but good happens to me, I had better have left him at Darnlinvarach than brought him here among these Highland salvages, who scarce know the head of a horse from his tail. But duty must part a man from his nearest and dearest —

«When the cannons are roaring, lads, and the colours are flying,
The lads that seek honour must never fear dying;
Then, stout cavaliers, let us toil our brave trade in,
And fight for the Gospel and the bold King of Sweden."

Thus silencing his apprehensions with the butt-end of a military ballad, he followed his guide into a sort of guard-room, filled with Highland soldiers. It was intimated to him that he

must remain here until his arrival was communicated to the Marquis. To make this communication the more intelligible, he gave to the Dunniewassel Sir Duncan Campbell's packet, desiring, as well as he could, by signs, that it should be delivered into the Marquis's own hand. His guide nodded and withdrew.

The Captain was left about half an hour in this place, to endure with indifference, or return with scorn, the inquisitive, and at the same time, the inimical glances of the armed Gael, to whom his exterior and equipage was as much subject of curiosity, as his person and country seemed matter of dislike. All this he bore with military nonchalance, until, at the expiry of the above period, a person dressed in black velvet, and wearing a gold chain like a modern magistrate of Edinburgh, but who was, in fact, steward of the household to the Marquis of Argyle, entered the apartment, and invited, with solemn gravity, the Captain to follow him to his master's presence.

The suite of apartments through which he passed, were filled with attendants or visitors of various descriptions, disposed, perhaps, with some ostentation, in order to impress the envoy of Montrose with an idea of the superior power and magnificence belonging to the rival

house of Argyle. One anti-room was filled with lacqueys, arrayed in brown and yellow, the colours of the family, who, ranged in double file, gazed in silence upon Captain Dalgetty as he passed betwixt their ranks. Another was occupied by Highland gentlemen and chiefs of small branches, who were amusing themselves with chess, backgammon, and other games, which they scarce intermitted to gaze with curiosity upon the stranger. A third was filled with Lowland gentlemen and officers, who seemed also in attendance; and after all, the presence-chamber of the Marquis himself, shewed him attended by a levee which marked his high importance.

This apartment, the folding-doors of which were opened for the reception of Captain Dalgetty, was a long gallery, decorated with tapestry and family portraits, and having a vaulted ceiling of open wood-work, the extreme projections of the beams being richly carved and gilded. The gallery was lighted by long lanceolated Gothic casements, divided by heavy stone shafts, and filled with painted glass, where the sunbeams glimmered dimly through boars-heads, and galleys, and batons, and swords, armorial bearings of the powerful house of Argyle, and emblems of the high hereditary offices of Jus-

ticiary of Scotland, and Master of the Royal Household, which they long enjoyed. At the upper end of this magnificent gallery stood the Marquis himself, the centre of a splendid circle of Highland and Lowland gentlemen, all richly dressed, among whom were two or three of the clergy, called in, perhaps, to he witnesses of his zeal for the Covenant.

The Marquis himself was dressed in the fashion of the period, which Vandyke has so often painted; but his habit was sober and uniform in colour, and rather rich than gay. His dark complexion, furrowed forehead, and downcast look, gave him the appearance of one frequently engaged in the consideration of important affairs, and who has acquired, by long habit, an air of gravity and mystery, which he cannot shake off even where there is nothing to be concealed. The cast with his eyes, which had procured him in the Highlands the nickname of Gillespie Grumach (or the grim), was less perceptible when he looked downward, which perhaps was one cause of his having adopted that habit. In person, he was tall and thin, but not without that dignity of deportment and manners which became his high rank. Something there was cold in his address and sinister in his look, although he spoke and behaved with the usual

grace of a man of such quality. He was adored by his own clan, whose advancement he had greatly studied, although he was in proportion disliked by the Highlanders of other septs, some of whom he had already stripped of their possessions, while others conceived themselves in danger from his future schemes, and all dreaded the height to which he was elevated.

We have already noticed, that in displaying himself amidst his councillors, his officers of the household, and his train of vassals, allies, and dependents, the Marquis of Argyle probably wished to make an impression on the nervous system of Captain Dugald Dalgetty. But that doughty person had fought his way, in one department or another, through the greater part of the Thirty Years War in Germany, a period when a brave and successful soldier was a companion for princes. The King of Sweden, and, after his example, even the haughty Princes of the Empire, had found themselves fain frequently to compound with their dignity, and silence when they could not satisfy the pecuniary claims of their soldiers, by admitting them to unusual privileges and familiarity. Captain Dugald Dalgetty had it to boast he had sate with princes at feasts made for monarchs, and therefore was not a person to be brow-beat even by the dig-

nity which surrounded M'Callum More. Indeed, he was naturally by no means the most modest man of the world, but, on the contrary, had so good an opinion of himself, that into whatever company he chanced to be thrown, he was always proportionally elevated in his own conceit; so that he felt as much at ease in the most exalted society as among his own ordinary companions. In this high opinion of his own rank he was greatly fortified by his ideas of the military profession, which, in his phrase, made a valiant cavalier a camerdoe to an emperor.

When introduced, therefore, into the Marquis's presence-chamber, he advanced to the upper end with an air of more confidence than grace, and would have gone close up to Argyle's person before speaking, had not the latter waved his hand as a signal to him to stop short. Captain Dalgetty did so accordingly, and having made his military congee with easy confidence, he thus accosted the Marquis: «Give you good morrow, my lord — or rather I should say, good even; *Beso a usted los manos*, as the Spaniard says."

«Who are you, sir, and what is your business?" demanded the Marquis, in a tone which

was intended to interrupt the offensive familiarity of the soldier.

«That is a fair interrogative, my lord," answered Dalgetty, «which I shall forthwith answer as becomes a cavalier, and that *peremptorie*, as we used to say at Mareschall College."

«See who or what he is, Neal," said the Marquis sternly to a gentleman who stood near him.

«I will save the honourable gentleman the labour of investigation," continued the Captain. «I am Dugald Dalgetty, of Drumthwacket that should be, late Ritt-master in various services, and now Major of I know not what or whose regiment of Irishes; and I am come with a flag of truce from a high and powerful lord, James Earl of Montrose, and other noble persons now in arms for his Majesty, and so God save King Charles."

«Do you know where you are, and the danger of dallying with us, sir," again demanded the Marquis, «that you reply to me as if I were a child or a fool? The Earl of Montrose is with the English malignants, and I suspect you are one of these Irish runagates, who are come into this country to burn and slay, as they did under Sir Phelim O'Neale."

«My lord," replied Captain Dalgetty, «I am no renegade, though a Major of Irishes, for which I might refer your lordship to the invincible Gustavus Adolphus the Lion of the North, to Bannier, to Oxenstiern, to the warlike Duke of Saxe-Weimar, Tilly, Wallenstein, Piccolomini, and other great captains, both dead and living; and touching the noble Earl of Montrose, I pray your lordship to peruse these my full powers for treating with you in the name of that right honourable commander."

The Marquis looked slightingly at the signed and sealed paper which Captain Dalgetty handed to him, and throwing it with contempt upon a table, asked those around him what he deserved who came as the avowed envoy and agent of malignant traitors in arms against the state?

«A high gallows and a short shrift," was the ready answer of one of the bye-standers.

«I will crave of that honourable cavalier who hath last spoken," saith Dalgetty, «to be less hasty in forming his conclusions, and also of your lordship to be cautelous in adopting the same, in respect such threats are to be held out only to base bisognos, and not to men of spirit and action, who are bound to peril themselves as freely in services of this nature, as

upon sieges, battles, or onslaughts of any sort. And albeit, I have not with me a trumpet, or a white flag, in respect our army is not yet equipped with its full appointments, yet the honourable cavaliers and your lordship must concede unto me, that the sanctity of an envoy who cometh on matter of truce or parle, consisteth not in the fanfare of a trumpet, whilk is but a sound, or in the flap of a white flag, whilk is but an auld rag in itself, but in the confidence reposed by the party sending, and the party sent, in the honour of those to whom the message is to be carried, and their full reliance that they will respect the *jus gentium* as weel as the law of arms in the person of the commissionate."

«You are not come hither to lecture us upon the law of arms, sir," said the Marquis, «which neither does nor can apply to rebels and insurgents; but to suffer the penalty of your insolence and folly for bringing a traitorous message to the Lord Justice General of Scotland, whose duty calls upon him to punish such an offence with death."

«Gentlemen," said the Captain, who began much to dislike the turn which his mission seemed about to take, «I pray you to remember,

that the Earl of Montrose will hold you and your possessions liable for whatever injury my person, or my horse, shall sustain by these unseemly proceedings, and that he will be justified in executing retributive vengeance on your persons and possessions."

This menace was received with a scornful laugh, while one of the Campbells replied, „It is a far cry to Lochow," a proverbial expression of the tribe, meaning that their ancient hereditary domains lay beyond the reach of an invading enemy. «But, gentlemen," further urged the unfortunate Captain, who was unwilling to be condemned, without at least the benefit of a full hearing, «although it is not for me to say how far it may be to Lochow, in respect I am a stranger to those parts, yet what is more to the purpose, I trust you will admit that I have the guarantee of an honourable gentleman of your own name, Sir Duncan Campbell of Ardenvohr, for my safety on this mission; and I pray you to observe, that in breaking the truce towards me, you will highly prejudicate his honour and fair fame."

This seemed to be new information to many of the gentlemen, for they spoke aside with each other, and the Marquis's face, notwith-

standing his power of suppressing all external signs of his passions, shewed impatience and vexation.

«Does Sir Duncan of Ardenvohr pledge his honour for this person's safety, my lord?" said one of the company, addressing the Marquis.

«I do not believe it," answered the Marquis; «but I have not yet had time to read his letter."

«We will pray your lordship to do so," said another of the Campbells; «our name must not suffer discredit through the means of such a fellow as this."

«A dead fly," said a clergyman, «maketh the ointment of the apothecary to stink."

«Reverend sir," said Captain Dalgetty, «in respect of the use to be derived, I forgive you the unsavouriness of your comparison; and also remit to the gentleman in the red bonnet, the disparaging epithet of *fellow* which he has discourteously applied to me, who am no way to be distinguished by the same, unless in as far as I have been called fellow-soldier by the great Gustavus Adolphus, the Lion of the North, and other choice commanders, both in Germany

and the Low Countries. But touching Sir Duncan's guarantee of my safety, I will gage my life upon his making my words good thereanent, when he comes hither to-morrow."

«If Sir Duncan be so soon expected, my lord,» said one of the intercessors, «it would be a pity to anticipate matters with this poor man."

«Besides that," said another, «your lordship — I speak with reverence — should, at least, consult the Knight of Ardenvohr's letter, and learn the terms on which this Major Dalgetty, as he calls himself, has been sent hither by him.»

They closed around the Marquis, and conversed together in a low tone, both in Gaelic and English. The patriarchal power of the Chiefs was very great, and that of the Marquis of Argyle, armed with all his grants of hereditary jurisdiction, was particularly absolute. But there interferes some check of one kind or other even in the most despotic government. That which mitigated the power of the Celtic Chiefs, was the necessity which they lay under of conciliating the kinsmen, who, under them, led out the lower orders to battle, and who formed a sort of council of the tribe in time of peace. The

Marquis on this occasion thought himself under the necessity of attending to the remonstrances of this senate, or more properly *Couroultai*, of the name of Campbell, and, slipping out of the circle, gave orders for the prisoner to be removed to a place of security.

«Prisoner!" exclaimed Dalgetty, exerting himself with such force as well nigh to shake off two highlanders, who for some minutes past had waited the signal to seize him, and kept for that purpose close at his back. Indeed the soldier had so nearly attained his liberty, that the Marquis of Argyle changed colour, and stepped back two paces, laying, however, his hand on his sword, while several of his clan, with ready devotion, threw themselves betwixt him and the apprehended vengeance of the prisoner. But the highland guards were too strong to be shaken off, and the unlucky Captain, after having had his offensive weapons taken from him, was dragged off and conducted through several gloomy passages to a small side-door grated with iron, within which was another of wood. These were opened by a grim old highlander with a long white beard, and displayed a very steep and narrow flight of steps leading downward. The Captain's guards pushed him down two or three steps, then, unloosing his arms,

left him to grope his way to the bottom as he could, a task which became difficult and even dangerous, when the two doors being successively locked, left the prisoner in total darkness.

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Scott, Walter,

Tales of my landlord

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